FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PRESIDENT BIGNONE DISCUSSES CENTRAL BANK ISSUE

PY172119 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1525 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Asked about reports released during the past weekend on the foreign debt, President Reynaldo Bignone said here that the national government has demonstrated through facts that it does not allow its actions to be conducted by rumors, stories, or reports of vague origins.

The president also made known his ideas about the position adopted in this regard by Central Bank President Julio Gonzalez del Solar, stating that his behavior was in keeping with the provision of the Central Bank's statutes.

The reporters have forwarded a quetionnaire to the president asking what will be the national government's position on the reports released during the past weekend regarding the refinancing of the foreign debt, and regarding and Argentine Central Bank president's position.

The president of the republic made known his opinion through spokesman Eduardo Maschwitz, who said that the national government has demonstrated through facts that it does not let its actions be conducted by rumors, stories, or reports of vague origins.

In this regard, and referring to the heart of the matter, the president stated: I want to refer back to the communique issued by the Military Junta at the end of the meeting held on 10 October, in which the economy minister and I participated, and added that the economy minister's message released on 13 October 1983 represents the government's official position.

He said that Gonzalez del Solar's behavior has always been in keeping with the provisions of the Central Bank's statutes, established by Article Four.

He said that Article Four establishes that the Central Bank's action is ruled by the policy established by the National Executive Branch through the Ministry of Economy, and that this compliance has been absolutely proven, with facts which have reached the limits of personal sacrifice which the exercise of a difficult task imposes on men in extremely difficult moments.

It is appropriate to remember that, at the meeting mentioned by the president of the republic, the Military Junta established the basis for resuming negotiations seeking the refinancing of the foreign debt.

AIR FORCE REAFFIRMS STAND ON FOREIGN DEBT

PY171803 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] The Air Force yesterday confirmed its adamant stand against the signing of any contracts rescheduling Argentina's public sector foreign debt prior to the October 30 elections, in reply to a report quoting Economy Ministry sources, according to which the contracts for the State Hydroelectric Board (Agua y Energia) and the State Gas Company (Gas del Estado) will be signed within the next few days.

The Economy Ministry sourses said the prompt signing of the contracts was one of the points in negotiating the disbursement of the first 500 million dollar installment of a 1.5 billion dollar medium-term loan by foreign creditor banks on October 28, which the Central Bank announced on Friday.

A top ranking Air Force source said the signing of these contracts should be postponed to allow "the next government's authorities" to participate in the negotiations with foreign creditors. "The only government official who is in a hurry to keep signing the contracts is Central Bank President (Julio Gonzalez del Solar)," said the source, adding that other "top ranking Economy Ministry officials have clearly said that there is no problem with the (45 to 60 day) postponement granted" by foreign creditors for rescheduling the debt.

"With this postponement," he pointed out, "we are in a position...to request a decrease in interest, similar to that obtained by Brazil. This implies a discount of 400 million dollars a year, or ten percent of (Argentine) exports, which the forthcoming authorities will not have to face."

BUS DRIVERS' UNION ENDS 48-HOUR STRIKE

PY171758 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 Oct 83 p 16

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Oct (NA) -- Busses were on the streets again as from 6 pm yesterday when the 48-hour strike declared by UTA, the driver's union came to an end. A considerable number of busses, mostly driven by owners, carried out fairly normal schedules yesterday and the number steadily increased during the night. Medium and long-distance busses left for the provinces as soon as the strike came to an end.

A few companies defied the strike ban. Several busses operated by the Rio de la Plata company left for Atlantic seaboard towns with non-union personnel in charge of the vehicles. An estimated one hundred vehicles were attacked and damaged by strikers in various suburbs and several drivers were injured. A similar number of vehicles were attacked on Friday and a bus was set on fire in the locality of San Martin.

On Friday night the government announced it would take all measures necessary to ensure the safety of passengers and drivers. Miguel Rios, Transport Workers Union (UTA) secretary claimed the strike was 80 percent successful. Other sources said the percentage was much lower. Bus owners and labour representatives are to meet at the labour ministry on Tuesday to discuss wage demands made by the workers. Union leaders threaten to stage another strike, this time for an indefinite time, unless the negotiations are successful.

ASSOCIATION CHARGES MILITARY JUDGES WITH ABUSES

PY151806 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1215 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 15 Oct (NA) -- Based on a survey among people who had been held at the executive branch's disposal, the Association of Relatives of Missing People and Political Detainees has stated that "a new plan to physically, psychologically and ideologically wipe out political prisoners" was applied as of 24 March 1976, "with the complicity of military judges."

The association reported that 62 prisoners were executed, including 39 in Cordoba prison, 4 in Rawson, 5 in La Plata, 3 in Jujuy, 2 in Santiago del Estero, and 9 in Resistencia. The association also reported suicides in Sierra Chica, Rawson, La Plata and Caseros; deaths due to mistreatment; five disappearances (four in La Plata and one in Devote); and some deaths due to lack of medical treatment. In a long document submitted during a press conference, the association stated that "military judges" cooperated with the "violence instituted by the Armed Forces" to the point of "violating laws established in the Constitution."

PRESIDENT ASKS OPPOSITION AID ON ECONOMIC ISSUES

PY150126 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 12 Oct 83 p 5

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- Yesterday President Joao Figueiredo made an appeal to Minas Gerais Governor Tancredo Neves to jointly seek formulas and solutions for the economic-financial crisis. The president in turn heard Tancredo's statements supporting direct elections. In practice, this meeting marked the beginning of the dialogue between the government and the opposition seeking solutions to the economic problems as was revealed by President Figueiredo during an address to the nation.

According to Governor Tancredo Neves, President Figueiredo accepted his position in favor of direct elections, but refrained from making favorable or unfavorable comments in that regard. Tancredo Neves stated that Figueiredo requested the opposition's support to seek overall solutions to the economic crisis without discussing any government measures in particular.

In response to the president's request for support made during the meeting (arranged at the government's initiative last weekend), the governor said that the opposition would be willing to examine the government's proposals seeking "sound solutions" to Brazil's problems. However, he pointed out that this was a personal point of view and that he could not talk on behalf of all the opposition.

FOUR COUNTRIES REDUCE TRADE, SUSPEND IMPORTS

PY151400 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1606 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 14 Oct (EFE) -- Colombia, Ecuador, Senegal, and Israel have suspended their imports of Brazilian products in retaliation for Brazil's nonfulfillment of the principle of trade reciprocity.

The report, published today by the newspaper GAZETA MERCANTIL, was made known by Paulo Tarso Flecha Lima, head of the Itamaraty Trade Promotion Department, who added that the measure was adopted following the initial decision made by Argentina.

These countries claim that Brazil imposes restrictions on their products and that trade with these countries was reduced substantially this year.

The possibility of this type of retaliation by Third World countries being expanded is worrying the government, Flecha Lima stated during a lecture given at the "Second Rio-International Week."

SHORTAGES FORCE REVIEW OF AMAZON ARMY UNITS

PY180106 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Oct 83 p 6

[Excerpts] The shortage of resources due to the economic crisis has compelled the Brazilian Army to review its priorities in the Amazon area. As a consequence, it will place emphasis on the fulfillment of its constitutional duty of safeguarding internal and external security by strengthening the training of its troops and reducing to a minimum its complementary duty of promoting regional development through civil engineering and communication projects, and cooperating with state and federal organizations in the education, health, and colonization fields.

A sign of this change of policy is the establishment of a mechanized cavalry unit, equipped with tanks, in Boa Vista, and the studies being carried out for the establishment of three infantry units (two on the border with Venezuela and one on the border with Suriname). Moreover, the activities of the Engineering Corps, which currently use few resources for the maintenance of the main highways, such as BR 364, BR 425, BR 317, BR 163, BR 174, and for the improvement or repairing of other secondary roads, have been rescheduled. These battalions will place more emphasis on the training of their squadrons and will continue, despite difficulties, to exercise an important role in the upkeep of the Western Amazon highway network, where tributary rivers make navigation difficult.

The Army, seeking to assist the people without paternalism, has also done away with its last military colony in Tabatinga on the border with Colombia. This decision, which was taken for budgetary reasons, coincides with the political autonomy achieved by that district, the only one on the border area which has an elected prefect, contrary to the law which provides for the appointment of prefects for the districts which are considered areas of national security, including all the districts on the border.

The Amazon Military Command units are in charge of safeguarding internal security. These units are stationed in such a way that they can be mobilized to the threatened areas with the support of the Navy and the Air Force. The Amazon jungles demand special combat training which is carried out at the Training Central for Combat in the Jungle, in Manaus, which is the most modern center of this type in the world. This center, which has already trained soldiers of various countries, including the United States, has an area of 900 square kilometers of jungle for training purposes.

BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS 'INCIDENT'

PY172350 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1520 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 17 Oct (EFE) -- In a statement made in Brasilia, Bolivian Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado has admitted that an incident on the Bolivian-Brazilian border has indeed taken place.

Ortiz arrived today in Brasilia on a 2-day official visit to initiate political negotiations between the governments of the two nations.

Ortiz downplayed the significance of the incident by saying that "such great significance should not be attached" to an event which "should be devoid from sensationalist ideas."

"The only official information I have on hand notes that the persons involved are believed to have been inspecting border landmarks," Ortiz added. However, he failed to specify whether the incident involved civilians or the military.

Brazilian and Bolivian newspapers have reported that Brazilian troops had trespassed in at least three areas of the Pando Department and that, on one occasion, they had threatened personnel stationed at a Bolivian outpost.

Ortiz arrived in Brasilia from Rio de Janeiro where he held "an extensive dialogue over several issues" with Rio de Janeiro's governor, Social Democrat Leonel Brizola.

NEW LOOTING REPORTED IN SAO PAULO NEIGHBORHOODS

PY141227 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Sao Paulo Governor Franco Montoro has said that no lootings have been recorded in Sao Paulo for several days. Reporter (Ivan Quadros) has news for the governor:

[Begin (Quadros) recording] After several days of relative calm, more lootings were recorded in Sao Paulo, especially in the eastern part of the city. In the pre-dawn hours yesterday, several grocery stores were looted in the neighborhood of (Jardim Camargo Novo). The looters took beverages, flour, rice, beans, eggs, and even shoes, causing 250,000 cruzeiros worth of damage, according to secretary [as heard] (Edevar Nunez de Oliveira), who was unable to tell how many persons participated in the looting.

At 0600 this morning the supermarket located at 25 (Pedro Geraldo do Nascimento) Street, also in the eastern part of the city, was ransacked and practically only the shelves were left in place. Approximately 60 persons raided the place and took everything they could, from foodstuffs to cleaning products.

When a police car of the local military-police garrison arrived, seven persons were detained. They were taken to the 50th Police District where the duty officer brought charges against them for being caught red-handed while stealing. According to the supermarket owner [name indistinct], his losses amount to approximately 5 million curzeiros. According to the 50th Police Precinct, more looting reportedly took place early this morning in the same area, although it has not been confirmed yet. [end recording]

POLICE DETAIN SUSPECTS IN U.S. CONSULATE ATTACK

PY151240 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 15 Oct 83

[From the "Police Report" feature, by (Renato Lombardi)

[Excerpt] The Federal Police began an inquest yesterday of the brothers Paulo Jacobo and Ismael (Rosani), 25 and 32 years of age, respectively. They have been accused of throwing bombs against the U.S. Consulate in Sao Paulo on 15 September. The U.S. Consulate is located on Padre Joao Manuel Street, Jardim Paulista neighborhood.

On that occasion, Molotov cocktails were hurled against the U.S. Consulate, starting a fire which destroyed part of a movie projection room. At the Federal Police station, Paulo Jacobo and Ismael (?denied) that they acted out of vengeance. They wanted to travel with their father -- businessman Paulo (Rosani) -- to the United States, but the U.S. consul refused to provide them with the appropriate visa.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PY150155 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] During an interview with the magazine (?EXAMEN), Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro stated that it would not be very wise if Brazil concentrated on one single market such as the United States. The minister thus refuted criticism that Brazil, during the past few years, has drifted away from the United States and diversified its market.

The foreign minister explained that Brazil has always implemented this diversification policy and that it is in keeping with Brazil's commercial interests. He asserted that Brazil has not drifted away from the United States with whom it maintains a good relationship despite the disagreements and agreements which we have had, have, and will continue to have, and which is something quite natural.

SPOKESMAN TERMS PDS-PMDB DIALOGUE HEALTHY

PY150152 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Presidential Press Secretary Carlos Atila, during a chat with journalists [illegible] edited to Planalto Palace, termed as extremely healthy the dialogue begun today by Senator Jose Sarney of the Social Democratic Party [PDS] and Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB].

Carlos Atila stated that all indicates that they will reach an agreement. The fact that the PMDB leadership has agreed to talk with Senator Jose Sarney is, in itself, an important step.

USSR OFFERS COOPERATION IN GAS PRODUCTION

PY152257 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1517 GMT 10 Oct 83

[Text] Porto Alegre, 10 Oct (EFE) -- The USSR has offered technical and scientific cooperation to Brazil to implement gas production plans, especially with coal.

The "Rio Grandense de Nitrogenados" firm received an offer from a delegation of Soviet scientists which visited the firm's coal gasification plant located in Rio Grande do Sul.

The delegation, which was made up of scientists of the Gunkin Petrochemical and Gas Institute offered all the necessary technical cooperation to increase the Brazilian firm's gas production.

BRIEFS

FIRST METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITES MANUFACTURED -- With technology developed by the National Institute of Space Research, Amplimatic Telecommunicacoes S.A. [Amplimatic Telecommunications, Inc.] has manufactured the first Brazilian-made meteorologic satellite, which will be marketed by the Fundacao de Ciencia, Aplicacoes, e Tecnologia Espaciais. [Excerpt] [JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 26 Sep 83 p 4 PY]

TITANIUM PROCESSING PLANT DEDICATION -- Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals has dedicated a titanium processing plant in Minas Gerais State. Owned by the Vale do Rio Doce Company, the plant's annual output is 15,000 tons of titanium. [Summary] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Oct 83 PY]

BAHIA STATE DROUGHT LOSSES -- Through lost crops, lost cattle, a drop in merchandise taxes, and expenses incurred in bringing into Bahia State the products needed to supply basic items, the direct and indirect effects of the drought have inflicted on the State of Bahia damages in excess of 200 billion cruzeiros. This was reported by State Finance Secretary Benito Gama. 152.2-billion cruzeiros in damages was estimated for losses in crops alone, such as beans, corn, rice, soybeans, and cassava, chiefly in the 12 townships around Irece, the largest grain producing area in the Northeast. Due to the drought, grain crops in Irece were almost completely lost. [Excerpt] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 26 Sep 83 p 4 PY]

INTERIOR MINISTER ON PARTY FORMATION DIALOGUE

PY171500 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1257 GMT 16 Oct 83

[By Albino Mallo]

[Text] Santiago, 16 Oct (EFE) -- Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa has stated that the political parties could be legally constituted by mid-1984, adding that, after this, an electoral timetable will be discussed.

Today, various news media commented on the interior minister's statement to the effect that "the government is willing to continue with the study of other constitutional laws and to set up an electoral timetable after the parties are legalized." These constitutional laws have already been announced by President Augusto Pinochet and are currently being studied by the State Council. The package of laws includes the electoral registry law, the electoral court law and others aimed at paving the way for the constitution of a parliament.

During a program broadcast by Radio Mineria, Minister Jarpa said that he would begin a new round of talks tomorrow, Monday, adding that he would not only talk with politicians, but with representatives of the university, youth, and union sectors. He said that the purpose of talking with these sectors was to "prevent political parties from holding another monopoly on the affairs of the country" because Chile needs "a broad democratic system representing and involving all the people."

As regards his meetings with the Democratic Alliance [AD] Jarpa said that he was surprised by the recent AD leaders' announcement that the dialogue had been interrupted. Minister Jarpa expressed his belief that the dialogue had not been suspended, but he said that an electoral timetable would not be discussed with just the AD because although the AD "is important, it is a part of the public."

Jarpa expressed his belief that other views should be taken into account, adding that "as an individual I will continue to meet with politicans from the previous governments because I believe that some of them have experience, good faith, patriotism, and a democratic spirit." However, the minister said that "no official agreements will be reached until political parties are legalized."

The Chilean bishops conference has also expressed its views about politicians and the dialogue over the past few hours. The Chilean bishops stated that "politicians of all trends should assume a more direct role in the country's political life."

As regards the dialogue, the bishops expressed their belief that "the parties to the dialogue should establish their conditions, adopt efficient measures, and respect each other's positions."

AD President Views Jarpa's Remarks

PY180133 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2206 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Santiago, 17 Oct (EFE) -- Hugo Zepeda, president of the "Democratic Alliance" [AD], the main multi-party group of the opposition, has stated that Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa has "the obvious intention of grasping our points of view."

In remarks to a radio station which were reproduced by the newspapers, Jarpa stated that the law on political parties could be implemented by mid-1984.

Patricio Ailwyin, acting president of the Christian Democratic Party, the main party among those which make up the AD, termed the minister's remarks "a useful step which I praise."

Ailwyin added, however, that "it is insufficient to resume the dialogue" which has been suspended by the opposition after three rounds of talks with the interior minister.

According to Zepeda, "the mere promulgation of a law on political parties, if it is not accompanied by a real desire to return to democracy in a short term, can only mean the formation of parties within the regime, as happened in Brazil for many years."

Ailwyn added that the AD is "ready to cooperate in these previous stages, provided that the desire to begin the final stage as soon as possible is clearly expressed."

HAVANA REPORTS CONCLUSION OF SIXTH PROTEST DRIVE

PA142125 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Five dead, and over 50 persons detained, along with the erecting of barricades, the lighting of bonfires, and a noisy concert of banging pots and pans characterized the third and last day of the sixth national protest drive in Chile, which began Tuesday and concluded last night throughout the country.

Two demonstrators died in La Florida neighborhood from shots fired by police at an antigovernment event. A 16-year-old was also killed near a church in Puente Alto.

Shortly before this, a military police agent was killed by a group of unidentified people; while in the city of Concepcion, a 19-year-old student was mortally wounded by a tear gas bomb.

These deaths raised to 69 the number of fatalities resulting from official violence in Chile since May, when union leader Rodolfo Seguel called the first national act of repudiation against the regime.

The first day of the sixth protest drive began with a meeting that gathered almost 100,000 protesters in Santiago. This was the biggest mass demonstration in Chile since fascism was established in 1973.

Called by the People's Democratic Movement, the sixth protest drive ended last night with the characteristic sound of empty pots being banged by both men and women throughout Santiago. Similar actions took place in Concepcion, Vina del Mar, Valparaiso, and other Chilean cities.

Meanwhile, a meeting in support of the sixth national protest drive, which concluded Thursday in Chile, was held in the headquarters of the Chilean Committee of Solidarity with the Antifascist Resistance [Comite de Solidaridad con la Resistencia Anti-Fascista] here in Havana. Alfonso Gutierrez, a member of this organization, stressed that the Chilean people's force has materialized in the struggle for the unity of all the combative sectors, in their repudiation of the regime, and in their demands for the liberation of all missing detainees and punishment for the criminals.

Veronica Virgilio, a member of the Fidel Gutierrez Information Center, detailed the developments of the 3 days of national protest, in which almost 200,000 demonstrators participated. This figure gives the lie to the small figure released by the capitalist news agencies.

For his part, Jorge Gutierrez, the FMLN's representative in Cuba, said that he was honored to participate as a guest in this event, where the common struggles of these two peoples are united. In the end, he said, they will demonstrate to U.S. imperialism and to the fascist regimes that misrule their respective countries where true reason lies.

The event was presided over by (Christian Gonzalez), president of the Chilean Committee of Solidarity with the Antifascist Resistance, and (Carlos Zambrano), member of the Americas Department of the Communist Party of Cuba's Central Committee.

More on Protest

PA151800 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] The Chilean People's Democratic Movement has indicated that the sixth national protest against the Augusto Pinochet regime was successful and that it clearly demonstrated the Chilean people's desire to immediately promote the end of the military dictatorship and consolidate as quickly as possible the necessary unity of all opposition forces in order to achieve democracy.

Approximately 100,000 people participated in a rally held in Santiago on the first day of this sixth national protest. The rally was organized by the People's Democratic Movement and union organizations.

Rodolfo Seguel, president of the National Command of Workers, has invited the people to a rally in opposition to the military regime on 27 October. He said that workers from all over the country will participate in the rally.

The appeal for unity by the leftist People's Democratic Movement has been rejected by the center-rightist Democratic Alliance. Christian Democratic leader Patricio Guzman has said that the Alliance will not establish any pact with the People's Democratic Movement. The center-rightist group has just announced that the dialogue it had been holding with military authorities has been terminated.

Meanwhile, General Augusto Pinochet, head of the Chilean regime, has announced the partial reorganization of his cabinet. The announcement was made shortly after the resignation of Finance Minister Carlos Caceres and Education Minister Monica Madariaga.

Miners' Protest Noted

PA152316 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Approximately 2,000 miners in the Chilean city of Chuquicamata have staged a peaceful march to protest the current economic situation and to express their opposition to the military regime.

The march began after a rally was held against the proposed transfer to the private sector of important areas of Chuquicamata, the largest open pit copper mine in the world.

Meanwhile, the Chilean People's Democratic Movement has hailed the success of the sixth national protest against the government, noting that the 3-day demonstration is further proof of the Chilean people's wish to put an end to the military dictatorship and to establish the unity among opposition forces that will facilitate a return to democracy.

The Chilean people have once more shown that they no longer accept the situation created by the military regime and are willing even to risk their lives to achieve freedom, according to statements made by Chilean labor leader Hector Cuevas in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital. In remarks to PRENSA LATINA, Cuevas declared that the workers initiated the first protest rallies in Chile, which in turn prompted several political parties to adopt an attitude more in line with the people's aspirations.

Hector Cuevas, in exile since December, noted that the Christian Democratic policy of dialogue has not worked, and that its failure has frustrated U.S. efforts for a right-of-center solution to the Chilean crisis.

Once Pinochet is out, he added, it will be up to the workers and the people to select the path to follow in search of a regime of justice, under which the blood of workers, peasants, intellectuals, and democrats shall never be shed.

Vicarship's Report Cited

PA161940 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] A report released in Santiago by the Solidarity Vicarship, an office of the Archbishopric of Chile, charges that Chilean interrogation specialists have begun using new methods of torture, while still dealing the usual blows, forcing the detainees into uncomfortable positions, and using electric goads.

According to the report, over 7,000 people were detained in Chile in the first 8 months of this year, while in August alone, 2,600 people were arrested arbitrarily.

In Santiago, the People's Democratic Movement has voiced support for the demonstration that the National Command of Workers has called for 27 October to repudiate Pinochet's dictatorship. Patricio (Alum), acting president of the Christian Democratic Party, has also expressed support for this initiative.

BRIEFS

COLOMBIA AMBASSADOR ACCEPTED -- The Chilean Government agreed yesterday to the appointment of Vicente Borrero Restrepo as the new Colombian ambassador to Chile, replacing Luis Gonzalez Barros. [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO 30 Sep 83 p C 3 PY]

MINISTER SAYS CONTADORA TALKS POSTPONED

PA180414 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Bogota -- Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo today announced that the meeting in Panama of the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and Central America in an effort to achieve peace in Central America has been postponed until next Friday.

The foreign minister stated that the Central American and Contadora Group foreign minister will begin a joint meeting next Friday in Panama to analyze the 21-point document that was recently presented to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The meeting was pontponed because further information is expected concerning the latest events in Centeral America, Lloreda Caicedo said.

NATIONAL BANK LOSSES REPORTED AT 7 BILLION PESOS

PA171748 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Oct 83 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] The Colombian Bank Superin tendency has reported that as of July of this year, the National Bank, which is being liquidated, suffered losses amounting to 7.261 billion pesos, while deposits amounted to 10.611 billion pesos. Cesar Gonzalez, who had been the Bank Superi tendency's special agent handling the National Bank case, was replaced yesterday by Hernan Santacruz. The National Bank's efforts have been largely aimed mostly at recovering as much money as possible and returning it to depositors.

Since it was decided to begin the liquidation process, the government has given priority to the task of recovering as much money as possible in order to help the many thousands of depositors affected by the crisis that shook the Colombia Group last year and was the "spark" for the famous financial scandal. It has been possible to handle this crisis with fewer setbacks than had been anticipated. The government even considered nationalizing the bank, as had been done with the State Bank, but given the National Bank's precarious situation, it seems likely that the bank eventually will be liquidated entirely.

MINISTER ANNOUNCES $1-BILLION CUT IN IMPORTS

PA172214 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Oct 83 p 4-b

[Article by Jose Ramon Nunez]

[Excerpts] The Government announced yesterday that it will cut imports this year by $1 billion, 83 billion pesos, in a supreme effort to achieve a balanced exchange policy. The country, after enjoying booms in the past, has returned to its normal situation: a scarcity of foreign exchange.

This and other announcements were made by Economic Development Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal upon his arrival from Madrid, where he signed important economic agreements with the Spanish Government and with Spanish businessmen.

Marin Bernal reported that there has been an $800 billion savings in foreign exchange since the application of restrictive measures 9 months ago.

The savings may reach the target figure of $1 billion by the end of 1983.

The minister believes that despite the imbalance that the government is trying to correct and the pressure this has put on reserves, the current total of $3.2 billion in reserves is still adequate.

BETANCUR MOVES AGAINST 'ANARCHY' IN PRICING

PA172225 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Excerpt] President Betancur today ordered an immediate end to the anarchy which characterizes the setting of prices for various public services. He also announced the creation of a National Vigilance Board, and the inclusion of consumers on the board of directors of enterprises that offer such services. Betancur further described an innovative scheme for financing those firms: each peso provided by the municipality will be matched by one from the department and two from the Urban Development Fund.

The president delivered a speech containing severe warnings and instructions this morning when he opened a meeting on public services at Narino Palace. The event was attended by 150 people, including governors, managers, mayors, ministers, advisers, and other top officials. This meeting was closed moments ago by President Betancur himself following 5 hours of discussion. He began his address by recalling the objective and subjective dimensions of subversion, and said that all of us meeting here function in an explosive environment of social dissatisfaction. He said that it would be an inexplicable, insane inconsistency for us to be told, with any validity, that we feed those objective factors.

Some of President Betancur's statements follow: [Begin Betancur recording] The prediction which has long been made by underrated social scientists, namely, that the Colombians' quota of indifference is just about exhausted, becomes more relevant each day. The document, signed last Friday, presents an accurate and disturbing diagnosis of the situation. It allows us to imagine where we will end if we do not stop now and carefully analyze the anarchy and lack of respect for the government's general pricing policy. [end recording]

POLICE KILL ONE EPL GUERRILLA, CAPTURE ANOTHER

PA141334 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Medellin -- A member of the outlawed Popular Liberation Army [EPL] was killed today by the National Police as the rebel, accompanied by another individual, was in the process of receiving millions of pesos in extortion money.

The action took place on a farm near Apartado municipality. The two guerrillas were receiving 5 million pesos from the estate of Jose Isaias Trujillo. The subversive killed by the police was identified as Carlos Cayetano Vargas Gomez, alias Caliche. Roberto Arturo Montoya was captured. He was injured while attempting to resist arrest.

MINISTER DESCRIBES ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATIONS

PY141555 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Elements involved in the murder of two Republican Guards in Ayacucho have been detained and the weapons stolen from those guards recovered, according to Interior Minister Luis Percovich Roca.

[Begin Percovich recording] We are carrying out a number of operations not only to detain persons involved in terrorist actions, but also as a security measure to protect police and security organizations. Special recommendations have been made to them to stay away from dangers which, unfortunately, are part of the police function. We have detained several members of different cells of the Shining Path group, both in Lima and in other places. The joint command of the emergency zone has also reported on specific operations. In the specific case you mentioned regarding the regrettable murder of two members of the Republican Guards, we can say that some elements involved in this barbarous crime have already been detained and the weapons stolen and vehicles used in the murder have also been recovered. [end recording]

TERRORISTS ATTACK FIVE POLICE POSTS IN AYACUCHO

PY171535 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Terrorists attacked five police posts in various parts of Ayacucho Department between Saturday night and yesterday. It is believed that approximately 100 guerrillas participated in the attacks.

It has been learned that four terrorists died and seven Civil Guards were injured during the attacks on the first four police posts on Saturday night.

During yesterday's attack on Para, 90 km west of Ayacucho, two guerrillas died and five Civil Guards were injured. The injured Civil Guards were transported by helicopter to Ayacucho. At the same time, the military command has sent additional personnel to reinforce the attacked posts, police sources have reported.

DEMONSTRATING STUDENTS, FISHERMEN DISPERSED

PY141528 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Using teargas grenades and trucheons, the police dispersed a group of students and fishermen who tried to march toward Government Palace. Students of the (Federico Villarreal) University and workers of the State Fishmeal and Fish Oil Production Agency [PESCAPERU] gathered at a downtown park to organize a march to Government Palace, but the police quickly dispersed them.

The students were protesting the elimination of reduced weekend transportation fares for university students, while the fishermen were opposing the government plan to sell PESCAPERU fishmeal factories to private enterprises.

The students blockaded the streets near (Villarreal) University and threw rocks at the police.

NICARAGUAN FISHING MINISTER SIGNS AGREEMENT

PY151257 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2117 GMT 13 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Lima, 13 Oct (EFE) -- Minister of the Nicaraguan Institute of Fisheries Alfredo Alaniz today stated here that the situation in Central America is "deplorable" because of increasingly direct U.S. intervention protecting the Somozists in Honduras. After a visit to Peru during which he renewed a fishing agreement signed in 1982 for the construction of two crawfish fishing boats for $7.5 million, Alaniz left Lima for Panama.

COMMENTARY ON UNFAIR FISHING AGREEMENT WITH USSR

PY131405 Lima Cadena National del Peru Television in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Oct 83 (tentative)

["Vision" program with (Manuel D'Ornellas)]

[Excerpts] Finally a fisheries minister has had the courage to call a spade a spade and admit that the fishing agreement signed with the Soviet Union during the military dictatorship benefits the Soviet Union and harms Peru.

With five fishing vessels operating beyond our 200-mile limit, the Soviet Union catches fish amounting to $2.2 billion per year, of which we only get $300 million.

We must congratulate Minister Fortunato Quesada for being honest, and for not using euphemisms when referring to this subject. At a time in which the crisis creates increasing (?disunity) among the Peruvian people, the Soviets take 85 percent of what they catch along our coastline. Since we do not know how strictly their activities are or could be controlled, they might even be fishing species such as [name indistinct] and mackerel and no one complains but Quesada.

Let us imagine for just one minute that what the Soviets catch is caught by U.S. vessels. In that case we would have Senator Malpica, Deputy Diez Canseco, and (Juan Manuel Dammert) complaining about the government's [word indistinct] and denouncing the pressure exerted by U.S. imperialism, but since in this case the communist government of Moscow is involved, they remain completely silent. They make no denunciations, no criticisms, no complaints. This is an example of hypocrisy.

If foreign oil companies sign contracts with Peru under much stricter conditions than those signed with the neighboring countries of Ecuador and Colombia, then we start hearing the loud complaints of the congressmen of the extreme left, the same that we have been listening to since 1980. But they are always directed against the U.S. abuses and remain completely silent on the Soviet abuses.

The APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Action] members used to say: neither for Washington nor Moscow; but these phrases seem to have been forgotten in the trunk of memories. The national interest is unique and whoever harms it must be condemned, no matter who it may be. Partisan preferences and ideologic similarities should have no bearing on this. Either one is on Peru's side or on its depredator's side; one cannot be in between. Let us hope that Quesada will be able to renegotiate the agreement with the Soviet Union on more just terms for the country and that those congressmen of the united left who have suddenly become silent may speak with the purpose of safeguarding national sovereignty, since it is being trampled on by their communist comrades.

ZAMBRANO SAYS NICARAGUA HAS NOT ASKED FOR ARMS

PA180049 Paris AFP in Spanish 2135 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Caracas, 17 Oct (AFP) -- Venezuelan Foreign Minister Alberto Zambrano Velasco has denied that the Venezuelan Government has received any request for military assistance from Nicaragua. Zambrano was asked if President Herrera Campins' government had made any decision regarding Nicaragua's request for military assistance to counter foreign attacks suffered by the population.

"I have no knowledge of any specific or concrete request to Venezuela in this respect," he said.

The Nicaraguan Government had announced that it would ask the region for military aid.

ZAMBRANO ISSUES FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT

PA171945 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 11 Oct 83 p D-13

[Statement issued by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco on 11 October 1983 -- capitalized passages denote boldface as published in original]

[Text] On 9 October, EL NACIONAL published an article by newsman Nestor Mora entitled "Assessment of an Inheritance," which was so unjust in its arguments that I am obliged to comment on the subjects to which he refers in order to provide a truthful, real, and positive assessment of the government's performance in those areas.

1. The Essequibo Claim

During the current constitutional period SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE regarding our claim to the Essequibo region. The government's initial efforts focused on clarifying two important claim-related issues that had not been sufficiently defined, and that, in addition, had been the primary subjects of Guyanese President Forbes Burnham's comments in 1981. These were the construction of the Alto Mazaruni Dam and the status of the Port-of-Spain Protocol. The government not only flatly rejected a longstanding request that Venezuela cooperate in construction of the dam, but also clearly demonstrated our nation's opposition to any international financing of a project that was more politically than economically oriented.

The status of the Port-of-Spain Protocol was also unclear as a result of the lack of a parliamentary statement either approving or rejecting it. After a careful analysis of all the circumstances, the government decided to suspend the Protocol effective 18 June 1982 and to fall back on the procedures of the Geneva Agreement, which is the document that was chosen by the country in 1966 to orient and give legal status to this claim. Before 18 June 1982, fruitful efforts were made to explain the justice of our position to friendly nations. Within the country, the government attempted to promote the highest possible degree of national unity on the issue. Therefore, WHEN THE PORT-OF-SPAIN PROTOCOL CEASED TO BE APPLIED, VENEZUELA'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO UPCOMING STAGES IN THE DISPUTE WAS MUCH CLEARER AND FIRMER BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND ABROAD THAN IT HAD BEEN WHEN THE DOCUEMNT WAS SIGNED.

The Essequibo Claim Advisory Commission was created, comprising representatives from all sectors of the country. With its help, the government has been defining the steps to be taken to ensure compliance with the Geneva Agreement.

AS A RESULT OF THESE EFFORTS, UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE LEGAL DEFINITION OF THE ESSEQUIBO ISSUE, which presented a great variety of problems. Venezuela's position on the issue was more clearly defined, as were the objectives to be pursued in sustaining that position. All the country's actions were oriented in accordance with those premises, AND DESPITE THE OPEN OPPOSITION OF THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT, IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT THE DIFFERENT STEPS CONTEMPLATED IN ARTICLE 4 OF THE GENEVA AGREEMENT IN A MANNER COINCIDING WITH THE VENEZUELAN POINT OF VIEW. THIS HAS BROUGHT THE ISSUE DIRECTLY TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL, AS VENEZUELA HAD PROPOSED FROM THE START. Therefore, without denying that there are still many matters to resolve in this difficult struggle, IT CAN BE SAID THAT WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THE CLEAREST PROCEDURAL DEFINITION OF THE ISSUE SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE GENEVA AGREEMENT WITH REGARD TO THE DEFINITION OF THE VENEZUELAN POSITION AND THE SPECIFIC WAY IN WHICH THE ISSUE WILL BE HANDLED.

2. Demarcation of Maritime Borders With Colombia

The government addressed the issue of the maritime borders with Colombia from the viewpoint of our country's unvarying position, which is to seek, through negotiations, AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE VITAL INTERESTS OF BOTH NATIONS IN THE AREAS TO BE DEMARCATED.

After a careful analysis of all preceding efforts, Venezuela's position focused on overcoming the obstacles that had previously stood in the way of reaching an agreement. As a result, A HYPOTHETICAL SOLUTION WAS ARRIVED AT WHICH, DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED, HAS BROUGHT ABOUT THE MOST PROGRESS TO DATE TOWARD REACHING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. At the same time, THIS POSITION HAS GAINED FOR VENEZUELA MORE AREA THAN EVER BEFORE. Since it can be presumed that there will be no future retraction of the Caraballeda solution, even though it has not yet been approved, THAT PROPOSAL CONSTITUTES AT LEAST A VERY SOLID POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR THE BEGINNING OF A NEW EFFORT TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. Relations With Cuba

The current administration took office under circumstances that forced it to review how these relations had developed up to that time in order to conduct them independently, particularly with regard to the explosion of a Cubana de Aviacion plane near Barbados, a case which the previous administration had turned over to Venezuelan courts.

The need to dispel any doubts about the new Venezuelan Government's willingness to defend, at any expense, the right to asylum quickly led to a confrontation [with the Cuban Government] which has not yet been resolved. In the confrontation, the Venezuelan Government has honored its promise to defend and uphold this right. When the confrontation became evident, the Cuban Government repeatedly and publicly expressed its support for Guyana in the case of the Venezuelan claim. Cuba's and Venezuela's concurrence in supporting Argentina during the Malvinas conflict, while Guyana backed the United Kingdom, opened new perspectives which improved these relations.

However, the Cuban Government conditions any progress in its relations with Venezuela to a court ruling convicting those involved in blowing up the Cubana de Aviacion plane.

The respect for the division of government branches and the autonomy of the judicial branch which, fortunately, exists in our country, explains sufficiently the status of this matter in terms of an independent and sovereign policy that defends one of the oldest institutions of Latin America's international law.

4. The Policy for the Institutionalization of Freedom and Democracy.

This is a phrase that is repeated by Venezuelans of all political groupings and is also heard in many countries with which Venezuela has dealt. This policy has been the main goal of President Herrera Campins' government and has earned the general support of Venezuelans. This idea was originally born with efforts aimed at carrying out a multilateral action in the search for political solutions in the struggle against the Somozist dictatorship. It was applied by the Andean governments externally toward Central America, and internally in support of electoral processes that have occurred since then in various countries which have gradually proclaimed and established democratic regimes.

5. The Policy of Cooperation

Central America and the Caribbean have been the beneficiaries of a policy of cooperation that eases economic difficulties in the area. This policy was originally begun by Venezuela in oil matters. Later, Mexico joined our country in the San Jose Pact, a program extending to nine Central American and Caribbean countries. This program was implemented without any political conditions and thus is a clear example of cooperation and solidarity which has received world admiration and has served as an incentive for other countries to offer their assistance, such as the United States and Canada in the Nassau Group. Cooperation has led to the consolidation of Venezuela's friendship with many countries which, through new and frequent political contacts, understand our views better and are now less vulnerable to the influence of certain propaganda that tries to present us as an aggressive and imperialist Caribbean country. Therefore, the regional community's appreciation for our policy has improved.

6. The Contadora Peace Efforts

Venezuela's rapprochement with Central America has permitted the implementation of some of the principles that inspire our foreign policy, especially those concerning the institutionalization of democracy and the implementation of cooperation programs. In 1982, Venezuela, together with Mexico, began a peace effort that Panama and Colombia later joined. This effort, which became known as the Contadora Group peace effort, was accepted by the Central American countries and received the support of the international community. This support has been repeatedly expressed in resolutions and declarations such as those issued by the European Community, the UN Security Council, and other countries of the hemisphere. This effort tries to apply a view expressed by Venezuela on a certain occasion; that regional conflicts require regional solutions through actions carried out by the interested countries, with the encouragement of others who better understand their difficulties and seek solutions for them.

7. The Nonaligned

Venezuela has actively participated in Third World organizations. It recently headed the Group of 77, attended the Cancun chiefs of state summit meeting, made recommendations on the urgency and importance of global negotiations, and is promoting a nonaligned policy warmly acknowledged by the international community.

It has been an observer at the nonaligned nations' group in recent years, and the time will certainly come when, having overcome some particular circumstances in our differences with Guyana, the only objection, posed by that nation, to our joining the movement will be eliminated. That objection prompted our government to ask for the indefinite suspension of consideration of our request to join, thus relieving the Nonaligned Movement from having to make a difficult decision. The Venezuelan Government's position under those circumstances, which still prevail, has gained broad support.

8. The Malvinas

From the very beginning, and without hesitation, the national government expresses Venezuela's solidarity with the Argentine nation during the crisis affecting that country during its armed conflict with the United Kingdom. Venezuelan solidarity was firmly announced at every forum and on every occasion. It was intended not only to offer the greatest support to Argentina, but also to encourage, as much as possible, Latin American solidarity in the face of such an unfortunate situation, and to bolster the position of our continent. It was a test of the fraternity and unity existing among nations which, besides their close bonds, have suffered directly from colonial empires' actions. On that occasion, national support for the government's position was practically unanimous. It is a source of great pride for our country that the people and government should have responded so promptly to the historic and deep-rooted sentiments of justice. A Venezuelan mission visited Europe to point out to members of the European Community the unjustness of their position of imposing economic sanctions against Argentina and, at the same time, to explain our anti-colonialist stand.

Finally, I wish to point out that Venezuelan foreign policy has been distinguished on many occasions, some of the most recent being: the appointment of Dr Sebastian Alegrett as permanent secretary of the Latin American Economic System (SELA); that of Dr Alberto Martini Urdaneta as vice president of the 38th UN General Assembly session; that of Ambassador Marcial Perez Chiriboga as president of the Assembly of INTELSAT (International Consortium of Communication via Satellite); that of Dr Francisco Morillo as director general of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IICA); and that of Dr Ulises Ramirez as secretary general of the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE).

Likewise, Venezuela has hosted several important events that have had positive effects on the country's international stature, such as: the meeting of chiefs of state of the Bolivarian countries; the Congress of Latin American Political Thought; the OAS specialized conference on financing; and the seminar on apartheid, among others.

Caracas, 11 October 1983.

Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco, minister of Foreign Relations.

AUTHORITIES CAPTURE 11 PRESUMED ELN GUERRILLAS

PA171551 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 13 Oct 83, p 1

[Text] On 11 October, Venezuelan Army members and security policemen captured 11 presumed members of the Colombian National Liberation Army, ELN, in a guerrilla camp in San Cristobal near the Colombian border. The guerrilla camp discovered by the Venezuelan authorities is some 35 km from Cutufi, where a military border post was attacked on 17 September by an ELN group. A national guardsman was killed in that attack.

COSTA RICA'S MONGE ARRIVES FOR 3-DAY VISIT

PA171700 Paris AFP in Spanish 1650 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Oct (AFP) -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge arrived here today, beginning an official 3-day visit to analyzw the Central American situation with his Mexican counterpart, Miguel de la Madrid. Monge arrived at the Mexican airport at 1020 (1620 GMT) where he was greeted by Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda, with whom he went immediately to the National Palace to hold his first meeting with De la Madrid.

The Costa Rican president will stay in Mexico until 19 October. During his stay he will meet with De la Madrid and several Mexican ministers to analyze the conflicts in Central America.

Meets With President

PA172251 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1915 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Oct (EFE) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid supported political pluralism as a basis for coexistence among peoples when he recieved Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge here today. De la Madrid said that self-determination and political pluralism "are imperative for peace and democratic coexistence in relations between countries."

On officially welcoming Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, De la Madrid said that Mexico believes in respect for the principles of coexistence, and that it practices solidarity because in the course of its political life it has many times been the setting for dialogue.

De la Madrid pointed out that Mexico sees Central America as a fundamental priority in its foreign policy, and there is, therefore, a "need to strengthen economic and technical cooperation, cultural exchange, and actions that will allow peace and development for each country and the entire region."

The Mexican president, who received Monge at the presidential palace, pointed out that Costa Rican people have a rich democratic tradition in addition to having dedicated their "efforts and talents to the constant refinement of a civilian participatory society."

The Costa Rican president told Miguel de la Madrid that "the active solidarity of the Latin American peoples is an invaluable source of political energy, which refreshes us so we can overcome the limitations of the moment." "Costa Rica and Mexico have helped each other in important political initiatives in favor of the well-being and peace of the peoples of the region," the Costa Rican president said.

He also said the complexity of the world crisis, which includes everything from economy and security to culture, "is a trial of our capacity to preserve liberty, democracy, and peace in a sovereign and dignified manner by way of the unalterable course of justice."

Luis Alberto Monge and Miguel de la Madrid agreed that the conversations that will be held during the Costa Rican president's visit to Mexico will be fruitful. De la Madrid said that in the course of the talks they will hold here "we will know how to respond to our people's expectations," in the discussion of international as well as bilateral matters.

Monge said the talks "are of prime importance in approaching the maximum possible understanding of the aspirations and political goals of our peoples."

De la Madrid said that at the end of Monge's visit the ties that link the two countries will have been enriched, to which the Costa Rican president responded that the solidarity that unites the two nations will be reaffirmed with this personal dialogue.

De la Madrid on C.A. Situation

PA1804O6 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0034 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Oct (EFE) -- In Central America, "the anachronistic adventures of imperialism are illogical," Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid today told Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge. At the end of a dinner hosted by President De la Madrid for President Monge, the Mexican president said that "historical changes are taking place in Central America that demand the approval of far-reaching agreements," and that "it is not possible to prevent changes through the illegal path of intervention."

De la Madrid said that due to remnants of colonialism, it is necessary to support the efforts of peoples that are struggling for national independence. "We know that the peoples' resistance will always be stronger than the obstinate interests of domination," and "we are also aware of the need to prevent the revival of authoritarianism," De la Madrid added.

"Today more than ever, Mexicans know that the people do not negotiate their destiny," and "we are convinced that peace must be based on full respect for the principle of national sovereignty in its twin aspects of self-determination and nonintervention," he pointed out. Mexico and Costa Rica, which "are trying to express their similarities and their own views in a mature and quiet manner," are responsible nations that must be "united in the actions that their own traditions demand," De la Madrid said.

He said further than both countries consider that "ideological pluralism is definitely a requirement for coexistence among nations," because when a nation "allows itself to be influenced by the big powers," the result is a decrease or loss of its independence.

De la Madrid said it was necessary to promote actions so that each state, by its own means and free from foreign intervention, keeps control over its territory, because it is imperative to advance the peace process, to reduce or eliminate conflicts, and to isolate the effects of controversies De la Madrid said to Monge: "Our struggle is against time, and groups that are in conflict."

De la Madrid praised the efforts of the Contadora Group, which "are seeking to transform a simplistic idea of peace into real peace," because we must prevent "the renewal of conflicts." He said that the diplomatic pacification process and measures aimed at preventing the aggravation of conflicts should be encourages in order "to restore security along borders, a security to which these countries have a right."

De la Madrid also stressed that "the idea that changes are a threat to progress in the area is unfounded," and he added that Costa Rica "has always occupied an important place next to the progressive forces of our region, and we know that nothing will detour the Costa Rican people from that path."

VENEZUELAN MINISTER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

FL142226 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2120 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Oct (NOTIMEX) -- Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Jose Ignacio Moreno Leon arrived here today on a 3-day official visit, as part of his tour of several oil-producing countries. The Venezuelan official indicated, in a brief press conference at the city's international airport, that while in Mexico he will hold talks with members of the Mexican Government energy branch, with whom he will study and evaluate the situatio and future of the world oil market. He said he will meet with the director of Pemex and Secretary of Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry Francisco Labastida Ochoa.

Moreno Leon heads a delegation formed by the presidents of the Venezuelan Oil Corporation [Corporacion Venezolana de Petroleo], Frank Alcok; the director of Venezuela Oil, Remigio Fernandez; and the executive assistant of the Venezuelan minister of energy, Francisco Velis.

The Venezuelan minister will depart for Algeria on 16 October and later will visit Saudi Arabia and the Arab Emirates.

Nicaraguan Exports To Be Renewed

FL170148 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2035 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Mexico, 16 Oct (NOTIMEX) -- Following talks with Mexican officials, Venezuela is considering different ways to restructure the Nicaraguan oil debt, Jose Ignacio Moreno Leon, Venezuelan minister of energy and mines, announced. During an interview at the Mexico City airport at the end of his official visit, Moreno Leon stated that during his stay in Mexico City, he was informed of the refinancing formula developed by Mexico for the Central American countries in debt to Mexico, adding that this formula could be used so that Nicaragua could remain within the San Jose Agreement.

The Sandinist government owes nearly $20 million to Venezuela for crude oil imports, which forced Venezuela to suspend exports 8 months ago. Exports will be renewed while attempts are made to find adequate mechanisms to permit the liquidation of that debt, Moreno Leon stressed.

In his meetings with representatives of the Mexican energy sector, he stated that there was an exchange of general ideas on alternatives to permit restructuring the Nicaraguan debt. Also discussed was the possibility of exchanging data on the behavior, exploitation, and production of the world oil market.

In order to stabilize the market, within 2 or 3 more weeks, in an as yet unspecified place, a meeting will be held of the four Latin American crude oil exporting countries, Venezuela, Mexico, Ecuador, and Trinidad and Tobago. At this meeting, talks will continue on technical points of view and administrative and technological assistence related to oil, Moreno Leon concluded.

GDR OFFICIAL ON AGREEMENTS, NICARAGUAN CONFLICT

FL161355 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0140 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Oct (NOTIMEX) -- The governments of the GDR and Mexico will open joint ventures in the industrial area, Dieter Albrecht, deputy chairman of the GDR State Planning Commission, announced today.

Interviewed at Mexico City's International airport, the German official said his country is interested in participating in the National Development Plan implemented by President Miguel de la Madrid to stimulate Mexico's society and economy. He also said that during his stay in Mexico he visited several parastatal enterprises to work out economic agreements in the metal working [metal-mecanico] sector because his country has the advanced technology required to accelerate Mexico's industrial development. He said the concrete agreements reached with the Mexican Government included establishing cooperation in machine, tool, and naval construction and rural radiotelephony.

Concerning the problem in Nicaragua, Dieter Albrecht said the Nicaraguan people are engaged in an open fight with the United States in defense of their sovereignty and right to self-determination. He said that like Mexico, his country supports Nicaragua's efforts to determine their own path to development.

ONE DEAD, SEVERAL WOUNDED IN CHIHUAHUA INCIDENT

PA141309 Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 10 Oct 83 p 18A

[Report by Chihuahua EL HERALDO correspondent Raul Lechuga Manquero]

[Text] Namiquipa, Chihuahua -- Some 2,000 members of the Socialist Worker's Party [PST] tried to storm the mayor's office yesterday, but were repelled by police. As a result of the action one man was killed, three were wounded, and many others were beaten. Violence erupted hours before the state's 65 new mayors were to take office. This has increased tension in the state to a new high.

Following a rally held this afternoon for Fernando Otzuka, former mayoral candidate of the PST, the crowd formed a line on either side of the street from the Main Square to the town hall for Otzuka to pass through. The police that were guarding the building blocked the crowd, which, according to the demonstrators, was unarmed. Some 60 policemen, armed with submachineguns and clubs, swooped down on the crowd, and suddenly several shots rang out. Manuel Aguilar Hernandez, 70, a PST militant who lived in the Northern Division neighborhood, died instantly. Paulina Ruiz de Solis was wounded when an explosive bullet that hit her shoulder tore her arm off. Other seriously wounded persons are Sergio Rene Perez and Heriberto Ornelas, it was reported. The PST has reported that some 150 people were beaten, but this information could not be confirmed. The police fired teargas cannisters to scatter the crowd. Some 25 cars were damaged.

Professor Jose Angel Aguirre, the local PST leader, accused the state government of fomenting the violent incident. Aguirre said that the PRI candidate was inside the building with 25 followers, and that the candidate was armed. Otzuka, who was struck by a club during the incident, was taken to a hospital.

The PST attained a majority, but the electoral tribunal gave the victory to the PRI after declaring the votes cast in some voting booths null and void because of irregularities. Tension prevails in the city. Today, 10 October, the PST will again hold a meeting and will wait for the arrival of Aguilar Talamantes, the party's national leader.

Expectation

While tension prevails in Namiquipa, preparations are underway all over the state for the installation of 65 new mayors. Municipal boards will be installed in Madera and Casas Grandes.

REPORTAGE OF INCIDENT WITH U.S. TROOPS

'Lack of Coordination' Cited

PA141915 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] The film you will be seeing in a moment is an exclusive RPC television report. It shows details of what happened this morning when U.S. military forces with duties in the canal and units of the recently created National Defense Force had a serious verbal clash due to a lack of coordination. The incident took place on the railroad in the canal sector. This incident could have had more serious consequences.

According to the Panamanians, a train transporting U.S. military forces trespassed into what they call Parts A and B, which have been returned to Panama under the canal treaties.

According to the United States, these parts are not clearly defined and their status has not been explained. In view of this, 5th Company elements under Captain Jose Campondonico followed instructions and stopped the train until the controversy could be cleared up.

What you are seeing now was filmed exclusively by our cameraman Victor Bustamante and our reporter Ciro Ortega. This film shows the attitude exhibited by the two sides during the incident that took place late this morning.

Later, Captain Cesar Dominguez, commander of the 5th Company, Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade, reached an understanding with U.S. officers after two possibilities were considered: that the train was to stay there, with the U.S. troops virtually under arrest; or that U.S. forces should not have to be stopped.

Captain Dominguez explained that there are procedures in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties to be followed when military equipment is transported through reverted areas, and that the U.S. Armed Forces are not following these procedures.

The U.S. forces were going to Fort Sherman, Colon Province. After approximately 45 minutes of dialogue, Capt Dominguez -- who handled the situation very skillfully -- granted permission and the situation that resulted from a lack of coordination was solved.

This morning's incident between U.S. military forces and the National Defense Forces was the most serious failure of coordination since the canal treaties went into effect. According to experts consulted by RPC, this lack of coordination must be solved to protect the interests of the two sides and to prevent situations that are not in accordance with the cordiality and harmony that have characterized relations between the two countries in the past few months.

Fortunately, the calm and mature way in which both the Panamanian and U.S. sides handled this matter prevented an unpleasant situation.

This incident should serve to improve the handling of situations in the future. We will give more details on the 1800 cast.

News Reports 'Misleading'

PA171624 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Oct 83 p 1-A

[Report by Vladimir Sandoval]

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Elias Castillo, G-3 of the National Guard, described as totally misleading a news report transmitted by the media yesterday claiming that a serious incident had occurred between Panamanian and U.S. troops in the Canal Zone at noon that day.

According to Lt Col Castillo, there was no problem; he explained that the incident occurred when the officer in command at Point 3 of the Panama-Colon route, where the incident was reported, did not know that the train carrying the U.S. troops to Ft Sherman had requested permission from the military police to make the trip.

He added that the incident was a misunderstanding between the parties and was settled through mediation by officers fo the combined forces. The officer on duty at the Balboa police station did not know that prior military arrangements had been made.

Castillo said that the U.S. troops who were detained at Point 3 of the Panama-Colon route were going to Ft Sherman. Castillo added that these troops are conducting joint maneuvers with Panamanians at Ft Sherman.

Troops in 'Violation of Agreements'

PA171627 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 15 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Antonio Graell Flores]

[Text] In violation of agreements established in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, U.S. troops, weapons, and military equipment entered Panama's jurisdiction yesterday, circulating in reverted areas without escorts provided by the Panamanian Defense Forces and without authorization from the Panamanian military authorities.

The Facts

At 0950, Captain Jose Teofilo Campodonico, commander of the Balboa police station, stopped the movement of the train at the Balboa train station because, without the necessary permit from the Panamanian military authorities, passenger car No 124 carried U.S. troops and two platform cars carried weapons and military equipment, including two armored cars and a military jeep.

Cholos in Action

Capt Campodonico notified Captain Cesar Augusto Domingo Rivera, commander of the 5th "Cholos Victoriano Lorenzo" Company, headquartered in Fort Amador, of the incident. Dominguez Rivera went to the Balboa train station and explained to the commander of the U.S. platoon that they were committing a violation by circulating in the "White Area" (an area where Panama has full jurisdiction because it has reverted to Panamanian authorities under the implementation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties) without Panamanian military escorts.

Soldiers Apologized

After Dominguez Rivera gave the U.S. commander a detailed explanation of the bilateral agreements that were violated, the U.S. officer who led the troops, which were traveling to the Atlantic sector for antiguerrilla combat training, applogized with the help of U.S. Corporal Pena, a Puerto Rican, in that the U.S. officer did not speak our language.

COSTA RICA

MONGE TO MEXICO, VICE PRESIDENT FAIT TO EUROPE

PA141331 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Costa Rican Vice President Alberto Fait has postponed his trip to Europe until next week. Fait's trip to several European countries and the United States, which was planned for this weekend, will start next Monday, 17 October.

Fait, who will visit Spain, Italy, France, and the FRG, as well as Washington, will depart on Monday for Paris, where he will stay 18-20 October. He will then visit Italy 20-24 October. As for his visit to the FRG, it has been scheduled for 25-27 October. Finally, he will visit Spain 28-31 October.

On his return, the Costa Rican vice president will stop over in Washington, where he will meet with U.S. Vice President George Bush to continue talks on the development plans for several investment and aid projects for our country. On 2 November, our vice president will hold another meeting with Vice President Bush and return to Costa Rica on the following day, expecting to bring back positive results.

During the absence of President Alberto Monge, who will travel to Mexico on Monday, 17 October, Vice President Armando Arauz will be acting president.

Mexico Trip Previewed

PA142321 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge's delegation for his trip to Mexico next Monday will be comprised of six persons [as heard]. According to the official program announced yesterday by information adviser Armando Vargas, Monge will leave San Jose at approximately 0800 and arrive in Mexico City at 1030. He will be transferred by helicopter to Los Pinos Presidential Palace, where Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, his ministers, and the diplomatic corps will greet him with honors. This will be an official state visit because Monge will be travelling as a head of state. He will be treated with full honors by the Mexican president.

The members of the presidential delegation who will travel to Mexico will be Ministers Alfonso Carro, Fernando Berrocal, Calixto Chabez, and Armando Vargas, as well as Central Bank President Carlos Manuel Castillo, Costa Rican Ambassador to the UN (Fernando Zumbado), and Costa Rican Ambassador to Mexico (Marcelo Prieto).

The group will meet several times with their Mexican counterparts to jointly analyze economic, trade, oil, and diplomatic affairs. They will later meet separately according to their specific fields to define actions and clarify any existing questions. The Mexican Government is interested in clarifying its relations with our country.

It has been asserted that Monge will be afforded special treatment. Presidents Monge and De la Madrid will meet on four occasions during the visit to Mexico. Shortly after his arrival at Los Pinos Presidential Palace, Monge and De la Madrid will hold their first private visit. That same day they will meet during a lunch offered by De la Madrid for Monge, at which both will speak.

On Tuesday, the presidents will also meet twice, for approximately 3 hours. On Wednesday afternoon they will sign a joint declaration. Monge is scheduled to return on Wednesday night, departing on a private flight at 1830.

President Luis Alberto Monge will receive special treatment during his stay in Mexico. President Miguel de la Madrid has decreed that Monge will be awarded the country's highest decoration. During the lunch to be offered by the Mexican president on Monday, the Costa Rican head of state will receive the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle in the grade of Great Collar. This is viewed as the Mexican Government's recognition of the Costa Rican president's efforts toward achieving Central American peace. Monge will also be declared an honorary citizen by the Federal District Council, and the ministers in his delegation will receive another decoration.

The Costa Rican president will meet with the Confederation of Mexican Workers [CTM] and receive a special honor for being the first labor leader to occupy the presidency of a Latin American country. During his visit to the CTM, President Monge will wear the decoration on his lapel that this workers organization awarded him more than 30 years ago.

The Costa Rican president will establish contacts with business and investment sectors in Mexico City. He will also hold a joint press conference with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid. The Costa Rican president's visit has been termed very important for Mexican-Costa Rican relations and the work being carried out in Central America.

REGIME REPORTEDLY REJECTS U.S. MILITARY PROPOSALS

PA141716 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 27 Sep 83 p 2a

[By Jose Melendez]

[Excerpts] San Jose, 26 Sep -- Official sources today confirmed that in the past 2 months, Costa Rica has rejected at least six U.S. military proposals, including one that called for the training of Costa Rican policemen at a Honduran base and another that called for the arrival of U.S. Marines for a "good will mission" at a Costa Rican port on the Caribbean.

Reports that have been confirmed by the Public Security Ministry add that Washington has asked President Luis Alberto Monge to dismiss officials opposed to the use of Costa Rican territory for armed activities by anti-Sandinist groups.

Costa Rican has been under strong U.S. pressure to "avoid impeding" the implementation from Costa Rican territory of war plans against Nicaragua. It has been "invited" to participate in these plans.

One hundred U.S. Vietnam War veterans -- most of them Cubans from Miami, Florida -- arrived in Costa Rica at the beginning of September to join anti-Sandinist groups. The Public Security Ministry found them and immediately expelled them from the country.

However, the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica put pressure on the Monge administration to dismiss Colonel Carlos Monge, chief of the Intelligence Directorate, who was in charge of expelling the mercernaries from Costa Rica.

Official sources have recalled that President Monge has permitted the arrival of U.S. Army personnel coming to the country to carry out "nonmilitary" work.

PVP DENOUNCES NICARAGUAN COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES

PA141805 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 6 Oct 83 p 7

[Paid advertisement by the Central Committee of the Popular Vanguard Party: "Let Us Join Efforts To Prevent Reagan From Drawing Us Into War"]

[Excerpts] Our nation is being thrust toward war and tragedy. The armed gangs of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution have taken control of areas along the Nicaraguan border. Throughout extensive areas of our country's northern region, the traitor Pastora and his Somozist allies are imposing their rule and their laws, killing those Costa Ricans who cannot accept our dignity and sovereignty being trampled. They threaten to kill our fellow countrymen, set up their war camps, and use our land as a permanent base for their aggression against our sister nation, Nicaragua.

Throughout the rest of the country, the counterrevolutionary gangs are building clandestine airports, maintaining field hospitals and safe houses, operating pirate radio stations, and maintaining military training camps. In San Jose, the counterrevolutionary gangs openly maintain offices. Their leaders hold press conferences to report their criminal incursions against Nicaragua. In the bourgeois neighborhoods, they raise funds to finance crime and subversion.

Since Curtin Winsor, the new U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica, arrived in San Jose, counterrevolutionary activity has grown rapidly. Savage air attacks against Nicaraguan civilian and economic targets have begun to take place. The Somozists and Pastora's followers have received large amounts of light and heavy caliber weapons. Terrorist attacks against Nicaragua have increased, including the recent cowardly and bloody attack against the Penas Blancas border post. Ambassador Winsor is not performing diplomatic functions in Costa Rica, he is working for the Pentagon and the CIA. He has been sent to Costa Rica to expedite the plans for war and aggression against Nicaragua and to unleash a McCarthy-like campaign of psychological intimidation and political repression against our country's patriotic and democratic forces.

Fellow countrymen: The Popular Vanguard Party is the oldest political organization in our country's history. The party was founded in 1931. The people know us. We have always acted with responsibility. We have always addressed issues seriously. Nothing has been able to make us stray from a policy of consistent struggle to protect the interests of the workers and the Costa Rican nation. The Costa Rican people are aware that we are a respectable political force.

We appeal to all party activists and sympathizers to remain alert in the face of threats; to strengthen our capacity to maintain the struggle; and to denounce with every available means the criminal activities of the counterrevolution, the complicity of our government officials, and the intervention of imperialism in Costa Rican and Central American affairs. Our ranks must be further united. Party unity must be strengthened at all levels. We must reach out to the people and the workers to tell them about the seriousness of the situation and to encourage them toward the struggle, which is the only way to defeat the imperialist and reactionary plans and pave the way for democratic and social change.

For peace and sovereignty, against imperialist intervention and the attacks on Costa Rica's rights and freedom; let all true patriots unite and prepare to engage in all the battles that may be necessary.

Signed; Guillermo Antonio Chavez Sanchez, personal identity card No. 1-399-1169

200 NICARAGUANS REQUEST REFUGEE STATUS 15 OCT

PA161627 Paris AFP in Spanish 1359 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] San Jose, 16 Oct (AFP -- It has been officially announced that a group of 200 Nicaraguans arrived yesterday, Saturday, at the border town of Tiricias in northern Costa Rica and requested refugee status from the local authorities.

Officials of the Rural Guard explained that the refugees, primarily peasants, are fleeing the violence in the border region, where fighting between Sandinist People's Army troops and counterrevolutionaries led by Eden Pastora has intensified in the past few days. The refugee group is composed of men, women, and children, Lieutenant Orlando Chavez of the Rural Guard reported. The new immigrants will probably be transferred to a refugee camp in Tilaran de Guanacaste (in the northwestern region), where some 1,000 Nicaraguans are already staying.

Meanwhile, Civil Guard officials announced that an investigation is being made into charges of an alleged mortar attack Friday night against the Costa Rican sector of Cabalceta, near the Penas Blancas border post. Indicating his concern regarding local newspaper accounts of an alleged "Sandinist attack against Costa Rican territory," Colonel Oscar Vidal said: "Nothing has been confirmed; the reports are contradictory."

CUBAN VICE MINISTER OF JUSTICE COMMENTS ON CRIME

FL161100 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Cuban Vice Minister of Justice Ramon de la Cruz has asserted in San Jose, Costa Rica that underdeveloped countries should associate the fight to prevent crime and rehabilitation of criminals with the establishment of a new world economic order. De la Cruz was appointed vice president of the Latin American regional meeting underway in San Jose to prepare for the seventh UN congress on crime prevention and the rehabilitation of criminals.

HAVANA CITES OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC WOES

PA161935 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] It was officially announced this weekend that it will be impossible for Costa Rica to make a short-term economic recovery. This announcement, made over the weekend, dissolved any hopes of an economic recovery in Costa Rica.

The President of Costa Rica himself has admitted that the situation is difficult. President Luis Alberto Monge said that it is possible to improve the standard of living in 15 years, but only if foreign aid is increased.

BRIEFS

NEW NEWSPAPER -- A new newspaper, FRENTE LABORAL, began to circulate yesterday among teachers and workers. The newspaper declared that it seeks to show willingness of democratic labor organizations to help improve the condition of all workers, whether unionized or not. The newspaper is published biweekly and its editorial council includes representatives from each of the country's democratic labor organizations. The Authentic Confederation of Democratic Workers, the Confederation of Costa Rican Workers, the Costa Rican Confederation of Democratic Workers, and the Teachers Front [Frente Magisterial]. [Summary] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 8 Oct 83 p 3 PA]

MEJIA INTERVIEW BY SALVADORAN, HONDURAN NEWSMEN

PA161319 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Oct 83

[SERCANO Network; 15 October interview with Guatemalan Head of State Oscar Mejia Victores by "Salvadoran and Honduran newsmen" at "the studios of Radio Fabulosa in Guatemala City" -- recorded]

[Text] [Raul Alfaro] We will now have Gen Mejia speak with our station's press chief, Hernan Quesada de la Torre. I am taking the opportunity to greet you, Mr President, on behalf of all Salvadoran sportsmen. [as heard] Mr President, it is a pleasure to have you with us via SERCANO. We extend our warmest greetings.

[Mejia] Friends and radio listeners from El Salvador, it is a pleasure to greet a Central American brother.

[Raul Alfaro] General, I have the pleasure of leaving you with our station's press chief, Hernan Quesada de la Torre, who will talk to you.

[Quesada] Thank you, Raul Alfaro. Good morning, Mr President. This is Hernan Quesada on behalf of the YSKL News Center. We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to speak via SERCANO so that you can greet the Salvadoran people, and particularly those Guatemalans living in our country. Come in, Mr President. Good morning.

[Mejia] From Radio Fabulosa of Cadena de Emisoras Unidas, I have the honor of greeting H s Excellency the Salvadoran President, the authorities, and the general public. I am at your service should you have any questions, which I will answer at once.

[Quesada] Thank you very much, Mr President. We would like to hear your opinion of the visit made to Guatemala by His Excellency U.S. Special Ambassador Henry Kissinger.

[Mejia] An important impression is made in any country when someone cares about you. It has been a long time since anyone cared about Central America. It is only natural. In this case, the visit was a result of U.S. President Reagan's initiative. He appointed the Bipartisan Commission that has come down here to learn about Central America's problems in order to find suitable solutions. We understand that any such solutions would be applied within a reasonable period of time. Mr Kissinger's report will be released early next year. We will then see the results of this visit by Mr Kissinger and his commission.

[Quesada] Mr President, how do you assess Guatemala's current situation? Has it improved or has it become worse?

[Mejia] Guatemala's situation is improving daily. Fortunately, we are almost in total control of the situation. There will always be such occasional matters as common crime -- the final action of subversives who can no longer wage the military war they had originally planned.

[Quesada] Regarding U.S. aid to Guatemala, what is the nature of the aid that Guatemala has requested from Mr Reagan's government?

[Mejia] As we are already aware, no aid will be granted immediately. We have requested special aid and support for the Air Force in order to give it the capability to transport supplies and food when we have weather problems -- something which occurs quite frequently in Guatemala. We must be able to reach the people. Those same helicopters have been very useful in support of our units fighting the rebels.

[Quesada] Mr President, we understand, that is to say, it has been said that Guatemala will send troops to be trained in Honduras. Is there any truth to this, General?

[Mejia] Look, we have no specific information regarding this. I don't think we have to send our troops to Honduras for training, as our own army has the necessary facilities and military instructors. They are well prepared to train our troops.

[Quesada] Mr President, we thank you very much for having used the SERCANO Network to greet the people of Central America, particularly those Guatemalans living in El Salvador. Do you have anything else to add, Mr President?

[Mejia] An embrace for all Salvadoran brothers. Thank you.

[Quesada] Thank you very much, brothers from SERCANO. We have interviewed the Guatemalan president through Radio Fabulosa in Guatemala and Radio Cadena YSKL in El Salvador.

[Raul Alfaro] We will now make contact with Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras, which will greet the Guatemalan president. Come in, HRN.

[Marco Antonio Mejia] Thank you very much, Radio Fabulosa. This is HRN through the SERCANO Network, commemorating Radio Fabulosa's anniversary. Good morning, Mr President Mejia Victores.

[Mejia] Good morning, Honduran friends. It is a pleasure for me to extend my brotherly greetings, particularly to President Suazo Cordova, General Alvarez, and to the Honduran Government and people.

[Marco Antonio Mejia] Thank you very much for the greeting, Mr President. We at HRN will be commemorating our 50th anniversary on 1 November. We are joined by newsmen Juan Bautista Vasquez and Adolfo Umana -- in addition to myself, Marco Antonio Mejia -- who will undoubtedly want to ask you some questions. I would also like to present some questions myself. Mr President, would you answer three or four questions?

[Mejia] I will be very pleased to answer any questions you may have.

[Marco Antonio Mejia] The first question, Mr President, is this: What role will CONDECA play in the regional Central American conflict?

[Mejia] I think that Condeca's role is extremely important in the Central American conflict because it represents a unified viewpoint in what is a strategic geopolitical area that has been undergoing many conflicts of late. We hope to hold a meeting shortly, following our initial contact when we met each other and discussed strategic aspects of the tense situation we are facing. We have decided to meet again in order to arrive at better agreements on the reorganization of CONDECA.

[Marco Antonio Mejia] Mr President, Sandinist leader Ortega Saavedra has said that the reactivation of CONDECA has no purpose but the joint invasion of Nicaragua by the Guatemalan, Honduran, and Salvadoran armies, and that the Sandinist People's Army was fully prepared to stop any invasion of this kind. What can you tell us about this?

[Mejia] I think it's possible that Ortega is mistaken in this matter because his great ability notwithstanding, he can hardly go beyond his country's border. [as heard]

[Marco Antonio Mejia] Mr President Mejia Victores, the government that you now head in the land of eternal spring is continually accused of human rights violations. What is your opinion of this?

[Mejia] As long as communism exists, it will always pay for the services of the news media so that it can distort the news and the events taking place in this country.

[Marco Antonio Mejia] Mr President, the international media largely distort information produced in the Central American area, particularly in the developing countries. There has been considerable twisting of information against Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. What can you tell us about the distortion of information abroad as compared to what is really taking place in Central America?

[Mejia] Our poor international image was created by the media. However, we know in our hearts that we are doing things correctly. Sometimes we just don't care what others outside of Guatemala think of us.

[Marco Antonio Mejia] Mr President, has a date been set for elections and for a return to constitutional life in Guatemala?

[Mejia] The elections have been slated for July. We will call the elections in March and the inauguration will probably take place a month after we have computed the votes and determined the winners -- thus, we will have a constituent assembly.

[Marco Antonio Mejia] Mr President, what do the Guatemalans specifically expect?

[Edgar Arcila] Friends of SERCANO, this is Edgar Arcila, the president of Emisoras Unidas, greeting you. I beg you to forgive this interruption of this unscheduled interview, but the president's kind visit to our studios was not intended for an interview. The president's great spirit of solidarity with the Central American peoples and his great affection for the freedom of expression and of thought have promoted him to kindly answer several questions asked by these sister stations. But we would like you to show a little consideration in that, as this interview was not planned, we have abused the president's kindness a bit. The president's only purpose was to send a cordial greeting to the fraternal Central American peoples. Thus, I would greatly appreciate it if you would end this interview. Let's give the president an opportunity to send a message, a brief greeting to fraternal Hondurans and in this way bring the historic visit to SERCANO by the Guatemala president to an end.

[Marco Antonio Mejia] Anyway, we at HRN in Honduras are grateful to Guatemalan President General Oscar Mejia Victores for having granted this interview to HRN, the Voice of Honduras, through SERCANO.

[Mejia] Again, I reiterate my fraternal embrace for the Honduran brothers. Thank you. [end recording]

HAVANA ON MEETINGS WITH KISSINGER COMMISSION

PA141259 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has met in Guatemala City with General Oscar Mejia Victores, head of the military regime of that Central American nation.

During their talks, both expressed their mutual hope for stronger ties between their two countries. Kissinger is in Guatemala at the head of the U.S. Bipartisan Commission for Central America created by President Ronald Reagan.

After the meeting between Kissinger and Mejia Vivtores, all mebers of the Guatemalan regime met with the entire Bipartisan Commission. During this second meeting, which was open to the press, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade said his country is committed to helping the Salvadoran regime fight the guerrilla forces.

While the talks were taking place at Government Palace, heavy police and military patrolling was underway around the palace and on Guatemala City's main thoroughfares.

PARTY LEADER CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT INDECISION

PA071406 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 7 Oct 83

[Text] Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, leader of the Christian Democratic Party, said today that in less than 4 months the Guatemalans have heard six different statements from the government on as many occasions regarding the date on which elections for the Constituent assembly will be held.

First, it was announced that they will be held on a certain date; later, a contradictory announcement was made to the effect that the date would be advanced; then the date was later confirmed; and so on.

Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo added that this government attitude has created great uncertainty and instability. In view of this, the citizens are increasingly losing confidence in the possibility of a return to institutional life, while the government continues to lose credibility because its failure to reach a firm decision and guarantee that this decision will be implemented demonstrates a lack of consistency and seriousness in dealing with one of the most important problems in the country's daily life.

The Christian Democratic leader said that the current government needs credibility and the confidence of its citizens in order to be consolidated. This requires that the Guatemalan people be told with honesty and accuracy the schedule of elections, that is, the date of the elections for the constituent assembly, as well as when the Guatemalan people will elect a president by popular vote.

Alfonso Cabrera said in conclusion that to date the only way for the government to acquire credibility in the eyes of the Guatemalan citizens and the international community is for it to immediately issue the decree calling for national elections to establish the national constituent assembly and for the government to announce when the transition period will end. There is no legal impediment to prevent the government from scheduling elections now to be held on 1 July 1984. Only by such a serious commitment will the government begin to overcome the uncertainty and instability that exists, Cabrera said.

EL GRAFICO EXPLAINS POLITICAL PARTY PROCESS

PA150252 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 14 Oct 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Our Answer to Kissinger"]

[Text] Henry Kissinger, former U.S. secretary of state, expressed his surprise during yesterday afternoon's meeting between representatives of political groups and the U.S. Bipartisan Commission on a fact-finding tour to Central America at the number of political committes seeking legal recognition as political parties in order to participate in the electoral process.

Our answer to Kissinger is: One of the most difficult aspects of Guatemalan politics for outsiders to understand is the proliferation of political committees. However, anyone familiar with what is happening in Guatemala since 23 March 1982 will know that we are in fact in a selective process. This is so because not all the political committees -- 32 so far -- aspiring to become political parties will reach their goal. Half of them, maybe more, will not make it because they just cannot meet the requirements by law, for instance, the 4,000 signatures from people who can read and write duly certified by a notary public, and with representatives in 50 municipalities, plus other requisites. Perhaps only 12 in 15 committees will meet the requirments and participate in the electoral process.

The constituent assembly is supposed to pass a bill establishing conditions for democrati and pluralist participation. It will seek to avoid the flaws of previous constitutions, which left the door open to dictatorships. In the new constitution, the decentralization process will prevail and a democratic attitude will act as the foundation on which the new electoral system will rest.

The next step in the selective process is the general elections. The new electroal bill, which was drafted by the recently dissolved State Council, is based on a two-phase system, also known as the French system. The political parties will participate individually in the first round and the percentage of votes obtained by each party will determine their future status as political parties. Only the two parties obtaining the most votes will participate in the second round. The other parties can join them or form alliances to support them if they wish, according to their particular interests.

In the second round, the winning party, the one that obtains the most votes, will rule with its allies. This selective process will permit a government representative of broad sectors of the community. It will be a pluralist government entirely different from former dictatorial and monopolist governments.

This, Mr Kissinger, is our answer to your questioning the mulitparty system of our pre-electoral political process.

HAVANA CITES CRITICISM OF MEJIA VICTORES REGIME

PA161922 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT Oct 83

[Text] According to Lucrecia (Macsar), a member of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, the idea behind the coup staged in Guatemala in August is to make that country play a role that is more in line with the belligerent U.S. policy in Central America.

At the opening of a solidarity drive in Guatemala, which was held in the Cuban capital, (Macsar) said that the dictatorship that currently rules in Guatemala, headed by Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, has an even more servile and pro-American policy than did its predecessor.

According to her, the recent coup in Guatemala was further evidence of the political, economic, and military crisis that the military regime is currently experiencing. It was also a way to regroup the Army and the ruling classes, which could not identify with the previous administration.

(Macsar) recalled that General Mejia Victores was defense minister during the previous administration of Efrain Rios Montt. He therefore is party responsible for the genocide in Guatemala and directly responsible for the planning, coordination, execution, and fostering of the massacres and crimes committed against the Guatemalan people.

ARMY COMMUNIQUE REPORTS SIX GUERRILLAS KILLED

PA172212 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 16 Oct 83 p 6

[Text] Six guerrillas have been killed in a clash with a military patrol on the Merilandia farm, in El Tumbador, San Marcos. An official Army communique stated that the six men had no documents and thus have not been positively identified.

The authorities reported that the patrol encountered the group at approximately 1300 on Sunday as the guerrillas were presumably looking for a site to carry out acts of sabotage. They were carrying three claymore mines and the necessary electrical equipment to detonate them.

A book was found on each of the guerrillas -- a "diary" in which they had recorded all their terrorist actions of the past month. They were also carrying 2 FAL rifles, three 12-gauge shotguns, three .30 cal M-1 carbines, one 45-cal Thompson submachinegun, cooking utensils, and 17 knapsacks containing food, first aid medications, and assorted literature.

The communique issued by the Army Public Relations Directorate reported that following the clash the area was combed and traces of blood were found in sufficient amounts to conclude that at least 10 guerrillas escaped carrying several wounded.

HAVANA CITES CHARGE THAT ARMY KILLED 14 PEASANTS

PA171952 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Guatemalan church officials have charged that Guatemalan military have murdered 14 peasants who refused to join patrols being organized by the Armed Forces to repress guerrillas.

According to the charge, the killings occurred in the (Chuxamitl) area in western Guatemala. One of the churchmen added that the peasants do not participate in those patrols because they have a large number of dependents and must work to support them. However, if they refuse they could be killed, as the Army then accuses them of cooperating with the rebels.

PGT ISSUES DEMANDS FOR NEWSMAN'S RELEASE

PA132012 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Oct 83

[Text] Army spokesman Colonel Francisco Djalma Dominguez today disclosed the other condition that the Guatemalan Labor Party, PGT, is demanding for the release of newsman Pedro Julio Garcia, director and general manager of PRENSA LIBRE.

According to the military spokesman, the PGT is demanding 400,000 quetzals as well as $10,000. [as heard] When Garcia was kidnapped, it was reported that the PGT had set two conditions for his release: the publication of a communique, which has already been complied with, and the delivery of a sum of money that the family has not specified. It was only today that the military spokesman disclosed the amount.

Djalma Dominguez added that industrialist Roberto Rosemberg, who was kidnapped 3 days ago, is in guerrilla hands, and that he was kidnapped because the rebels want money. He did not say how he obtained the information.

EGP: ISRAEL TO SET UP WEAPONS FACTORY

PA121939 Paris AFP in Spanish 1958 GMT 10 Oct 83

[Text] Managua, 10 Oct (AFP) -- The Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP), a Guatemalan rebel organization, has revealed that an Israeli weapons factory is being established in Guatemala to supply the armies of the region. The EGP added that 300 Israeli advisers are working in Guatemala with the Army and security corps, which are currently engaged in a war with four guerrilla organizations that have merged into the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG].

In a news bulletin released here, the EGP said that a plant designed to produce ammunition for Galil rifles and Uzi submachineguns began in Alta Verapaz Department, Guatemala, in May.

According to the bulletin, Israel plans to manufacture these weapons in Guatemala in the near future, and has also reportedly set up an electronics firm here to satisfy the military intelligence needs of Latin American armies.

The bulletin added that Tadiran Israel Electronics Industries Limited, which manufactures equipment for the Israeli Army, has opened a branch in Guatemala with $12 million initial capital.

The EGP stated that these moves allow "Israel to simultaneously accomplish two objectives: to satisfy the needs of its own war economy and to fulfill the role assigned to it by the United States in its counterinsurgency plans."

The rebel organization said that Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, which reactivated the Central American Defense Council (CONDECA) at the bidding of the United States, have agreed to rapidly standardize the weapons and ammunition used by their armies.

The EGP recalled that in 1977, the Guatemalan Army, which has 25,000 members, purchased 15,000 Galil rifles, and that Honduras recently began buying Israeli weapons following a visit to Central America by that country's defense minister, Ari'el Sharon.

Israel had earlier been charged with promising to give Honduras 12 Kfir fighter-bombers to be used in an eventual war against the Nicaraguan Government.

The EGP said that Israel also promised to supply Honduras and the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries with weapons seized from the PLO during the occupation of Beirut.

The EGP stated: "We once again call upon the world's progressive and democratic forces to help prevent the growth of a weapons industry in Guatemala that would have disastrous consequences for the region."

OAS HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT 'UPSETS' ARMY SPOKESMAN

PA132154 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Oct 83

[Text] The OAS Human Rights Commission has presented the first part of its report on the human rights situation in Guatemala. It has determinied that violations are still being committed by both the government and the guerrillas. The investigation was conducted by several OAS members last year, who reached the conclusion that violations have continued to occur.

Army spokesman Colonel Francisco Djalma Dominquez was upset by this report and described it as part of an international campaign by certain organizations to discredit the government.

He expressed his surprise at the fact that the members of this commission could draft such an extensive report after having made such a brief visit to the country. In any case, he noted, information on the country's human rights situation should be supplied by the residents of Chajul or Nabaj, and not by people such as those interviewed by the OAS, who have vested interests in discrediting the government.

EL SALVADOR

D'AUBUISSON ON KISSINGER, UPD, MALDONADO

PA140322 San Salvador Channel 6 Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Oct 83

[Press conference held by Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, president of the Salvadoran Constituent Assembly and of the Nationalist Republic Alliance, ARENA, questioners not identified, on 11 October; place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [D'Aubuisson] You local and foreign correspondents have been witness to criticism of the judicial system of our country, El Salvador; however, breaking the law is also condemnable, and I have heard no criticism of that. I say this sincerely because we have been criticized from abroad for the regrettable and embarrassing incident involving the U.S. nuns as well as the case of the men killed at the Sheraton Hotel. It has been said that our judicial system has not advanced and that there has been no trial. Even aid to the country is being conditioned, and there are other bothersome matters of which you are more aware than I. What surprises me is that our system is only criticized when certain groups or sectors are affected. I have never heard them criticize the irregularities in the enforcement of Law 207.

Who gave us the idea for Law 207? A U.S. citizen, a so-called (Rotherdam). He is a doctor whom claims to be knowledgeable about the agrarian reform matters. He tried to implement this system in Vietnam, and I believe it was begun. The results? Don't ask, because the United States no longer goes to Vietnam. [laughter and applause] However, he continued insisting that his agrarian reform was a great idea. We were guinea pigs, and it was here he wanted to experiment with his great agrarian idea. This is the main problem, and because of this we must organize and strongly defend a defense committee for Law 207. The law is no longer being implementing legally, and this is why I am making this clear and why a committee is being formed to defend that law.

The main point of this press conference is to announce that we will create a defense committee for Law 207. Abiding by the law, we will help anyone who has been unfairly expelled from his land. It he owns his piece of land legally and is expelled, we must help him. We also want to prevent further unfair expropriations.

[Reporter] Major, I understand that ARENA is going to include something in the Constitution for the continuation of the agrarian reform's third phase?

[D'Aubuisson] It has already been included. It has been stated that the land that belongs to the state can be transferred so that the peasant will have more access to it.

[Reporter] Does this apply to the third phase?

[D'Aubuisson] Yes. It is a continuation of the third phase. Now the land owned by the state can be sold or given to peasants.

In the bill we presented, we stated that this land could be given to the peasant with 2 or 3 years' grace because the land does belong to the state. In 3 years the land will have begun to produce and the peasant can then start making payments.

However, as Law 207 is drafted now, they are illegly taking land from one person and giving it to another. This person is then forced to pay for the land immediately. He must find a way to make those payments or find financing. But the state can propose a secondary law that should include a grace period of 2 or 3 years.

[Question indistinct]

[D'Aubuisson] Very good, because it is a U.S. presidential level commission, a commission appointed by President Reagan. I believe they will be able to return with a precise view of what is happening, not only in El Salvador, but in Central America. I believe it is a good commission. I wish such a commission had visited us a long time ago.

[Reporter] Major, do you think that a few hours is enough time for foreigners to get a clear picture of what is going on in the country?

[D'Aubuisson] It is not just hours; they have been aware of what is going on for quite some time. They have used their information well when they wanted to and ignored it when they wanted to. [applause]

[Question indistinct]

[D'Aubuisson] I want to make it very clear that I have nothing against the Salvadoran Communal Union, UCS, Association of Cooperatives of Integrated Agricultural-Livestock Products, ACOPAI, or other organizations that form the Democratic Popular Unity, UPD, or against the UPD as an organization despite the fact that it does not enjoy legal status. My statement was strictly political. The UPD leaders tried to pressure the Constituent Assembly, and as a deputy and president of that organization, I have my responsibilities. I was not going to sit back and accept the pressuring.

They wanted to sell the idea that deputies who did not accept their platform were bad deputies. Having information on some of the UPD leaders, specifically Samuel Maldonado -- and today I can give you more information on Maldonada [applause] -- I spoke more as a political statement so that we could begin realizing who this man is, so that the other leaders realize where they are being led and how they are being used. I have nothing against them.

ACOPAI and UCS were organized long before the agrarian reform. They organized independent cooperatives, these cooperatives bought their farms and the organizations trained the peasants and helped them produce.

But today I see these men being used, and if you correspondents wish to learn a bit more about the UPD, I can tell you that [28-second break in transmission] and the other peasant association that follows the guidelines of the Venezuelan branch of the Latin American Central Organization of Workers, CLAT, which follows the Christian Union guidelines. The headquarters for this organization is in Belgium. However, despite the fact that they always seek a democratic, world-type union, some ideas remain at odds. But these two currents have joined there. I won't say what happens when this occurs. There is also a third current which has practically disappeared in this country; it came from Czechoslovakia and had its Latin American headquarters in Chile.

In El Salvador it was represented by the United Confederation of Salvadoran Workers, CUTS, the more or less strong leftist union also consisting of the FUSS [Salvadoran Single Trade Union Federation], FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation], and the (FESTIAVTSCES) [Federation of Unions of Workers in the Food, Clothing, Textiles, and Related Industries of El Salvador].

[Question indistinct]

[D'Aubuisson] Well, they began organizing the UPD. In this war situation we are experiencing, I believe that the UPD, at the right time, can become the people's strongest weapon should the FMLN win through violence. If the FMLN wins through violence, I believe that the UPD could be the popular basis for a counterrevolution because if the FMLN wins, the political parties would practically disappear. However, they would not attack an organization of this kind head on with the contacts it has with free unions and CLAT. Even though I don't care for the FMLN, I do have to admit that they think and analyze. I believe they have reached the same conclusions that I am outlining at this time. This is why they began infiltrating the organization; to have some influence among the leaders. This is where Samuel Maldonado fits in.

They began leading Maldonado into this train of thought back in (?1972). Maldonado contacted and had meetings in his home with ERP [People's Revolutionary Army] leaders, such as the leader responsible for the western front; and due to this connection with them, if the FMLN won, a counteroffensive by the people could be neutralized. Samuel Maldonado always knew what he was doing, and that he was betraying his UPD companeros. He is also betraying the leaders of the other organizations.

However, there is another alternative. If the FMLN ceases this armed struggle -- it is impossible to achieve power with weapons -- then it can begin a political movement, and political arrangements could be made between the UPD or other political parties. Speaking specifically of Samuel Maldonado: Many statements made on behalf of the UPD were really on instructions issued by the FMLN.

I have two complete reports on all of Maldonado's activities. These reports cite names, dates, places, and all that he has done. At this time, I do not want to disclose too much of this. I know the authorities have this information. I believe that the U.S. Embassy is also aware of this information.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the recommendations made by the United States and some U.S. labor organizations that suggest Maldonado should remain outside the country?

[D'Aubuisson] I think they don't have a clean conscience, and they know I have told the truth. They probably made the right recommendation, however I am not interested in seeing anything happen to Maldonado, and I have told this to U.S. Ambassador Pickering. I wish the authorities had the ability to effect justice after a legal process had been observed, a process during which he would have the right to defend himself.

[Reporter] What other subjects will be included in the 20 questions (?Mr Kissinger will ask)?

[D'Aubuisson] I have already said that I have not read the 20 questions. If I have time tonight, I will study the document. The funds from the Agency for International Development, AID, could have passed through the UCS or Samuel Maldonado into the wrong hands. Isn't it strange? They were offended.

Can you recall how many times they have attacked us, saying there was corruption and that corruption had to be fought? Now I tell them I believe there is corruption in the use of their funds, and they are offended. What does this mean? It means we must accept two or three persons' idea of what corruption is. They don't accept criticism. If someone asks them to find out where the money is going.... [does not complete sentence].

I wish AID would do a detailed investigation on whether the funds they are distributing have been properly used. I also asked them to wholeheartedly continue supporting us, especially now that we have become beggars at the hands of the reckless Christian Democratic government. [applause] I wish AID would investigate, find out what the UCS has financed, and analyze the results. Once they have done this they will realize that many of these statements portray not the feelings of the UPD members, but FMLN slogans. These statements are corrupt because they are not characteristic of the organization and are financed by AID funds. I believe that AID gives a fairly large amount of money to the UCS. I am not sure, but I believe it is more than $5 million per year. I have heard at times that AID gives them $10 million, but I have no proof. I do know that they receive more than $5 million a year. Why not investigate how these funds are used, find out how many people are getting paid by the UCS, investigate whether all these people are working for the UCS? They will probably find out that some of these people are not working for the UCS, yet they get a salary while they probably work for the destructive FMLN.

During that preliminary meeting between the Peace Commission and those guys the FMLN sent to Colombia, a very interesting maneuver was made. They said the following meeting would be on 29 September. With this maneuver they gained a whole month to cause problems so their representative, Villacorta the spy -- whom I have already denounced -- could negotiate in Bogota from a position of strength. Personally, I believe they will now try to begin a reconsolidation, because they are not going to be able to keep doing all the things they did in September, which failed. Please note they have already begun robbing banks. They had not done this for quite some time. They are stealing food, clothing, shoes. This proves their situation is difficult. They have to gain time, gain time to see how they can once again start bringing in shipments of weapons from Nicaragua. Because of all this, I'm wondering whether the group [not further specified] might begin urban actions. Urban actions would be great propaganda even though no important military objectives were attacked. They would get space in the international press -- the international press praises their actions -- and they would [applause] win some time to see if they could get weapons in.

[Reporter] Speaking of propaganda, are last week's actions related to Kissinger's visit?

[D'Aubuisson] Of course. They did not seek military objectives, which would be the logical targets in their kind of struggle to take over power by means of violence; it was more for propaganda, and to be in the news. The latest actions were directed at this, to promote propaganda and be in the news, to make believe they are strong when in truth they are fairly weak, especially where weapons are concerned. [applause]

UPD's Response

PA161450 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 15 Oct 83 pp 4, 41

[Text] Members of the Political Committee of the Democratic Popular Unity, UPD, have responded vigorously to the accusations made against them by Major Roberto D'Aubuisson Arrieta, Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, and Constituent Assembly president.

UPD leaders pointed to Major D'Aubuisson's political faults and said among other things: "We warn ARENA again with regard to its president's attitude, which serves only to identify the organization with traditional repressive organizat[illegible] that are not controlled by the Armed Forces. We warn the assembly and the [illegible] government about these criminal actions by their highest representative."

The UPD Political Committee members said during a press confe[illegible]nce that [illegible]imila[illegible] arguments against the ARENA political leader have been raised, and issued a[illegible]a to all sectors of the country "to prevent the continuation of a regime [illegible] Salvador as well as the denunciations that result in killings that go unpun[illegible]he

In addition, they stressed that Major D'Aubuisson has intensified h[illegible]s against the UPD, the National Financing Corporation for Agricultural Lands, FINATA, the AFL-CIO, AID, and the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador.

The Political Committee members appealed to the news media to refrain from acquiescing in the game of increasing violence and terror, and to emphasize instead the words and actions of peaceful democratic citizen.

They also reported that UPD leader Samuel Maldonado has not fled, but is carrying out a UPD mission in the United States and will return next week.

They said: "Colonel Reinaldo Lopez, national police general director and member of the Human Rights Commission, told us this morning that he will give us protection, particularly on the premises occupied by our organization. This action indicates that he is obeying the law."

The members of the Political Committee also delivered a communique containing proposals intended for the U.S. Bipartisan Commission on Central America in which they detail violent actions that have been launched against such organizations as the Salvadoran Communal Union, UCS; the Union of Farm Workers, UTC; the Associations of Cooperatives of Integrated Agricultural-Livestock Products, ACOPAI; the National Association of Salvadoran Indians, ANIS; and the Trade Unions Federation of Construction, Transportation, and Related Industries, FESINCONTRANS.

UPD Leader's Statement

PA150451 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Excerpts] This morning the Political Commission of the UPD, Popular Democratic Unity, held a press conference in a well-known hotel in the Salvadoran capital. Various topics of general interest were discussed. One of the UPD leaders disclosed a memorandum read and delivered to the members of the National Bipartisan Commission for Central America. The memorandum says in part:

[Begin recording] The road has not been easy. The general violence the country is passing through has affected the UPD particularly. More than 200 rank-and-file members and leaders have suffered violence directly.

But this has not affected our determination to found a truly democratic center in our country. This is the only true road to peace and democracy.

So far almost all our propositions have been rejected at the Constituent Assembly. After analyzing the results and having participated in their development, we can proudly assert that the reforms will be respected in their essential parts, particularly the agrarian reform, whose first stage will be respected.

We can be sure that there will be a second stage, and that the third one will be consolidated and continued. We assert this after holding extensive dialogues with the Salvadoran democratic parties represented in the Constituent Assembly. These parties have confirmed this to the UPD.

As a result of this work, threats and attacks against the UPD members and leaders have greatly intensified. For example, Jorge Alberto (Pistamacho), (?APOTAI) president and member of the UPD Political Committee, was recently attacked with dynamite and has been continually persecuted. Also, Samuel Maldonado, member of the UTF [Railroad Workers Union] National Executive Council and member of our Political Committee, has been falsely accused by the Assembly president himself, Roberto D'Aubuisson, and by D'Aubuisson's party, ARENA, of belonging to illegal organizations involved in the armed struggle. This accusation was made with the purpose of stopping his work in [words indistinct] in El Salvador.

Unfortunately, these accusations and this harassment have been accompanied, if not supported, by a campaign through the press particularly aimed at the UPD.

COPREFA REPORTS NUMEROUS REBEL CASUALTIES

PA150527 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 14 Oct 83 pp 2, 50

[Excerpts] Two "terrorist commanders" and 172 more subversives died during several clashes that occurred in various places in the country during the past 3 days according to COPREFA, the Armed Forces Press Committee. A spokesman of this official source disclosed yesterday afternoon that one of the two "commanders" had been identified only by the pseudonym "Sonia." This rebel died in San Rafael de Oriente, where another 42 rebels who engaged the Atonal Battalion died. In the neighborhood of El Transito village, he added, 48 others died and a large number of seriously wounded extremists fled the area. In addition, 30 rebels died in Moncagua, near Lolotique, Nueva Guadalupe, and San Buenaventura.

During combing operations in El Triunfo, Nuevo Eden de San Juan, San Gerardo, and Sesori, 20 more rebels were killed. An undetermined number of wounded, aided by their companeros, managed to flee. The spokesman said that near Tenancingo in Ajuluco canton, 8 rebels died and 13 were wounded.

The source also added that the armed forces seized a 60-mm mortar, a PRC-107 radio, seven G-3 rifles, and abundant ammunition. The Army, the source said, suffered 10 casualties, including dead and wounded.

At noon yesterday rebels established an attack position on the northern main road close to El Paisnal in San Salvador, where they detoured buses in order to steal personal belongings and money from passengers and drivers. Also yesterday, on the road from San Martin to Suchitoto, terrorists attacked passengers and drivers traveling along the road. This happened near La Bermuda, Penas Blancas, and El Aceituno villages in Suchitoto jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department.

Yesterday the FMLN rebels destroyed privately-owned vehicles on the road between El Triunfo and Lolotique. Later, after noticing the presence of the Armed Forces, the terrorists decided to flee. In El Triunfo and Estanzuelas, terrorists abducted several young men and forced them to help carry a large number of men wounded in yesterday's clashes with the government forces.

San Salvador, 13 October 1983.

Rebel-Held Village Surrounded

PA160449 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 15 Oct 83 pp. 4, 40

[Text] Troops from the Third Infantry Brigade have surrounded the village of San Luis de la Reina in northern San Miguel Department. Groups of extremists have occupied the village since early yesterday. During their advance, the soldiers encountered several bands of rebels, who fled without offering resistance. All fire was held until the encircling operation was complete.

According to a military source, the terrorists are still in control of defenseless villages and use residents as hostages in order to ensure that the Army does not attack.

Taking this into consideration, government soldiers are on the alert, waiting for the terrorists to appear and provide the opportunity to pursue them to other areas where there is less chance of endangering innocent lives. Military authorities have reported that there are nearly 500 well-armed rebels in San Luis de la Reina.

Fighting may break out at any time should the extremists attempt to retreat. Meanwhile, the Army cannot enter those villages due to the number of innocent victims that might result.

Authorities in Sesori have revealed that rebel groups headed for San Luis de la Reina aboard trucks and buses left behind a fuel truck that they had stolen several days ago.

It was also reported that the Armed Forces have continued their operations in Morazan, Chalatenango, Usulutan, La Union, San Vicente, and Cabanas Departments. No additional casualty figures have been announced since the Armed Forces Press Committee report stating that 174 guerrillas had died. The only known action is an ambush sprung by a military patrol against a rebel column in the cantons of Jocote Dulce and Candelaria in San Vicente jurisdiction. In those places, the terrorist column headed for San Luis de la Reina was subjected to a surprise attack, during which six rebels died. The remaining insurgents, according to the same report, fled carrying their wounded comrades.

RADIO VENCEREMOS ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES

Operations in San Miguel

PA161824 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Interview via mobile unit with Commander Gilberto Guevara Pereira, head of an Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade battalion, by an unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Companero Gilberto, could you tell us something about the fighting between our forces and the dictatorship's special battalions in northern San Miguel Department?

[Guevara Pereira] By achieving all the goals pursued by the northern group of the Rafael Antonio Arce Zablah Brigade -- objectives which had very positive results in the northern part of San Miguel Department, in Villa El Triunfo, Lolotique, Nueva Guadalupe, and (Buenaventura) -- as well as the goals achieved on the bridge at the turnoff to Jucuapa, where a firm blow was dealt to 3d Brigade reinforcements, the Rafael Antonio Arce Zablah Brigade directly demonstrated its great capacity and capability.

It put powerful reinforcements on the run. These reinforcements left abundant war materiel behind. Having pointed out these successful operations, I must refer to the way in which the enemy responded, the weakness demonstrated by the 3d Brigade reinforcements, who were forced to flee. After we had been on the Pan-American Highway for several days, the enemy's special battalions -- the Atlacatl, the Cazadores, and the Paratroopers battalions -- showed up. The enemy reinforcements sent three advance battalions toward the area of conflict. We used the tactic of attrition with these special battalions and caused them many casualties. Casualties from the Atlacatl Battalion included a company commander and numerous troops. We dealt them repeated blows using the tactic of small-unit formations, which enable us to achieve all our objectives and foil the enemy's advance.

Victories on Various Fronts

PA161845 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] In the last few hours, the FMLN obtained great victories for our people. On the Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front, after successfully laying an ambush on km 28 of the road to the coast, our forces seized 22 M-16 rifles, an M-60 machinegun, and a military radio from the enemy. Our forces also took 6 prisoners of war and killed 19 of the dictatorship's troops, wounding many others. This action was carried out by units from the Luis Adalberto Diaz Detachment and from the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade.

Meanwhile, on the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, FMLN forces seized the town of Santa Cruz Michapa, putting the paramilitary group there on the run. That town is only a few kilometers away from the city of Cojutepeque in Cuscatlan Department.

On the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front, the units of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade defeated a huge enemy operation that involved the regime's best battalions. This new enemy operation in northern San Miguel Department failed as a result. We caused several casualties to the dictatorship's forces, to the regime's special forces with our tactic of thoroughly bleeding the dictatorship's forces. Their casualties included a captain from the Atlacatl Brigade and two wounded officers -- a captain and a lieuteant -- from the Cazadores Battalion in San Miguel. Thus, on the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade units have defeated an expensive enemy operation launched by the dictatorship.

Thus, our military campaign "Independence, Freedom, and Democracy for El Salvador" military campaign advances. Salvadoran youth, join the FMLN's ranks! Be a part of the victory! Together we will defeat the dictatorship! Together, we will win.

HONDURAS

SUAZO CORDOVA'S SPEECH TO U.S. COMMISSION

PA172128 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Speech by Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova to the U.S. Bipartisan Commission on 14 October 1983, place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] The visit to our country by the U.S. Bipartisan Commission for Central America is highly significant both for my government and for Honduras. I would therefore like to express our great hopes that our talks will have positive results for Honduras and all of Central America, an area which is passing through the most crucial times in its history.

My government has drafted a document containing an outline of our most important foreign aid needs. We believe this aid to be a decisive factor, one that will help strengthen our efforts to solve the various problems which Honduras currently faces. We are convinced that a timely but urgent (?solution) of these problems will satisfy the aspirations of our people that the democratic regime over which I am honored to preside has been trying to fulfill, with much dedication and sacrifice and under exceptionally difficult circumstances.

Our foreign policy is based on the principles recognized by international law and the postulates of peace, democracy, security, and cooperation for economic and social development. We realize the importance of proposing medium- and long-term solutions for Central America.

This visit demonstrates a clear awareness on the part of President Reagan's administration that relations with our countries cannot be conducted through improvisation or emotional responses to a given situation. On the contrary, they must be based on a permanent strategy.

However, we feel obliged to point out that although long-term planning is important, Central America is suffering moments of distress and accelerated change that demand a series of rapid decisions to solve the serious problems afflicting our countries.

Therefore, we must recognize the vital importance of short-term decisions adopted here and now if we are to reach the long-term objective which the Bipartisan Commission has in mind.

It is important to all our people that Honduras' role in the Central American drama and its importance to the defense of justice and freedom be recognized. The facts have shown that Honduras is already playing a major role in deciding Central America's destiny and that it is doing so with a spirit of democratic solidarity and unswerving dedication to peace.

With meaningful support, Honduran democracy can be a model, an example of what can be done by those Central American peoples who enjoy freedom. It can also serve as a constrast to the situation of those suffering under dictatorship and totalitarianism.

Regarding this, we must clearly emphasize that what we have said here can neither advance nor even sustain itself without the decisive and significant aid of those friendly countries such as the United States which are committed to respect for human dignity.

The contrast between the Honduran reality and that of Nicaragua does not need to be emphasized because it is eloquent. In that neighboring country, the nonfulfillment of promises made by the Nicaraguan regime to the people and the authoritarian and aggressive course taken by that regime have generated the serious domestic problem of which we are all aware. The people who fought for their freedom are now being afflicted by a tyranny that subdues the Nicaraguan people and makes that country an element of discord in the Central American area.

With the imposition of the current regime, Nicaragua has become a threat to all of Central America in two ways: On the one hand, a threat resulting from constant harassment and the promotion of violence and terrorism in the area, and on the other, a threat resulting from its disporportionate, gigantic military establishment, which has disrupted the security balance, which must be reestablished. As a result, that area has become a serious problem. To face it, we require a substantial strengthening of domestic defense capabilities to defend our sovereignty and our historical and cultural heritage.

It is public knowledge that our country has been actively and sincerely supporting the Contadora Group's peace efforts. We will continue to do so in the near future, because we believe it can help to achieve an overall solution of the Central American conflict.

However, the basic questions are: Will there be a reorientation in Nicaragua? Is there a possibility that broken promises will be fulfilled and that there will be an end to dependence on extra-regional and extra-continental totalitarian regimes? Is there a possibility that the aggressive and destabilizing attitude toward the region's governments will be put aside and that international commitments will be honored? The available evidence certainly suggests to us that such a reorientation becomes less probable every day.

In this effort, the support of the various organizations involved in regional and hemispheric security is imperative to advance in the building of democracy, and especially to defend democracy from the threats of [words indistinct] that are trying to suffocate it.

I would like to convey to you, Dr Kissinger, and to all the other members of the commission, the fervent hopes of my government and the Honduran people that your efforts will increasingly be strengthened for the benefit of peace and the exaltation of human dignity.

Only a genuine understanding of our problems and a decisive will to contribute to their solution will pave the way for that new phase to which I have refered, a phase of strengthening the friendship between the United States and Central America, and a phase of complete solidarity on the part of the great nation that you represent and on the part of our Honduars, which will not waver or back down in its determination to achieve a better future.

Thank you very much, members of the Bipartisan Commission.

ECONOMIC ADVISER ALFARO EMERGES AS SUAZO AIDE

PA141953 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Oct 83 p 3

[Text] Gustavo Adolfo Alfaro, minister-adviser of the Economy Secretariat, is currently handing the affairs of state, relieving President Suazo Cordova of some responsibilities, and to a certain extent replacing Presidency Secretary Carlos Flores Facusse.

Alfaro, in his capacity as economic adviser, is presiding over Cabinet meetings as well as several commissions appointed by the president to deal with matters of national importance.

Alfaro deals with issues related to the administration of the government and briefs President Suazo Cordova so the latter can take appropriate measure.

Since the president returned from the United States, he has only met with his advisers once, reportedly because doctors recommend that he take extended periods of rest and that he avoid long work days, which is the case when there are Cabinet meetings. The president is undergoing daily medical examinations, and is working only half a day.

Last week Alfaro met with the interinstitutional commission that he presides over to discuss the document that will be submitted to the U.S. Bipartisan Commission headed by Henry Kissinger. He also met with the private and working sectors for the same purpose and dealt with other affairs of state usually looked after by Presidency Secretary Carlos Flores Facusse.

Yesterday he met with the board of directors of the National Railroads of Honduras and received a commission of Xicaque Indians from Montana de la Flor who came to present their needs at Government House.

He also held a meeting with a workers' delegation of the Potrerillos Cement Industry.

NICARAGUA

RAMIREZ RETURNS FROM TRIP TO ALGERIA, SFRY

PA172055 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Upon his arrival at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport this morning after completing a long tour of several European countries, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said that Nicaragua is officially resorting to nonallied socialist and capitalist countries [as heard] to acquire the necessary military equipment for the country's defense.

Ramirez Mercado praised the friendship and brotherhood with which Algeria and Yugoslavia received the Nicaraguan delegation, thus confirming the strengthening of political and diplomatic relations with those nations. Here is Ramirez Mercado:

[Begin Ramirez recording] Taking into account that Yugoslavia and Algeria are key countries in the Nonaligned Movement, I must say that the friendly way they received and treated us has led to stronger political relations with those two countries. We talked with leaders of these two countries and agreed on key issues in our political assessment of the Central American situation and the aggression that Nicaragua is suffering.

The Yugoslav and Algerian presidents were very clear in noting the aggressive nature of the Central American conflict, and pointed to the fact that we are the victims of an escalation of U.S. attacks. They said that the Central American conflict is not a confrontation of world powers, but is deeply rooted in the area's conditions. Yugoslavia and Algeria expressed solidarity with us in this situation.

We also discussed economic matters with them. In the case of Yugoslavia, we obtained loans for the development of agriculture and irrigation systems. We also signed an agreement in Yugoslavia for the creation of a Nicaraguan center for the production of improved corn seed. Yugoslavia is the world's leader in this area. It has the highest corn production per hectare in the world. We also discussed the possibility of carrying out a development project in the energy field. [end recording]

No Break With U.S.

PA172059 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1857 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Managua, 17 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- Upon returning from a trip to Yugoslavia, Algeria, and Bulgaria, Sergio Ramirez, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said here today that the Sandinist government is not considering a break in diplomatic relations with the United States.

At Managua's Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport, the Sandinist leader explained that a break in relations would never be initiated by Nicaragua, "even if the Reagan administration increases its attacks on the revolution." "President Ronald Reagan's government is acting as if we had no relations, either diplomatic or commercial," he added.

Asked if the government had obtained MIG-17 figher planes, Ramirez responded that the Sandinists are officially seeking the necessary equipment to defend the revolution. Only a "crazy" person would choose not to arm himself in the face of the U.S. "plans for aggression" being experienced by Nicaragua, he explained.

On Elections, U.S. Attitude

PA171446 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Madrid, Spain -- Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, has said that the U.S. Government wants his country to bow down, but this will not happen. Ramirez stated that negotiations are possible through the Contadora Group composed of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela.

Ramirez cautioned that the moment may come when Nicaragua, pressed by criminal CIA activities against the people, will have to stop discussing elections, which are scheduled to take place in 1985.

The Sandinist leader was interviewed in Madrid by EL PAIS. Ramirez is on his way back to Nicaragua after visiting Yugoslavia and Algeria. Ramirez told the Spanish newspaper that Nicaragua has been forced to use all its resources for defense because of activities being carried out by the counterrevolutionaries and the CIA, and this will result in a delay in the institutionalization of the electoral process.

We will never let Reagan take the initiative either in the political or military aspects. We will never let his government decide the rules of the game in the diplomatic, political, or military field, Ramirez said.

Ramirez blamed the CIA for the attack on Port Corinto on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua. Ramirez said: The United States is hitting us in such a way that we may have to lean on friendly Eastern bloc countries, which we do not want to do.

ORTEGA: PEOPLE READY TO RESIST INTERVENTION

PA171304 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0205 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] In an interview published by the magazine SOBERANIA, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has said that the Nicaraguan people are prepared to face and resist a U.S. intervention for as long as necessary. Asked whether in the event of a direct U.S. aggression Nicaragua would accept the support of all the peoples and governments of the world which want to support it, Commander Ortega Saavedra said: In the event of a direct intervention -- we are already experiencing the war the United States has declared, all that is left is for them to land their troops in our country for it to be a direct confrontation -- the Nicaraguan people are prepared to face and resist the U.S. intervention for as long as necessary. We know that facing a U.S. intervention means experiencing a very difficult situation calling for many sacrifices. We would have to face a military power called the United States. We would have to face its bombings, its Air Force, its warships, and its entire technology of terror. However, we trust that we would be able to neutralize the bombings and the deployment of forces. We are also certain that the Nicaraguan revolution will not be defended only in Nicaragua.

We are sure, Ortega Saavedra continued, that the region would be defended and that the defense of the Nicaraguan revolution would shake the entire Latin American continent and the Caribbean. We are sure that there would be international solidarity under those circumstances. This solidarity would even include the U.S. people, he concluded.

This interview was published by the magazine SOBERANIA, organ of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, in a special issue to commemorate the tribunal's second anniversary. It will be sold to the public tomorrow.

Havana Cites Ortega Statements

PA172018 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has reiterated his country's right to acquire the necessary military supplies for its defense, and charged that Washington is trying to attack the Sandinist revolution while demanding that Nicaragua stand by with folded arms.

During an interview granted to SOBERANIA magazine, the official publication of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, Ortega pointed out that the United States is trying to interrupt the dialogue between Nicaragua and Costa Rica in order to tighten the noose around the Nicaraguan people.

Ortega said that in order to achieve this, the White House is supporting the counterrevolutionary bands that have settled in the area of the Nicaraguan border, and plans to carry out 300 attacks from Honduran territory. Mentioning the enemy's recent threats against Mexican vessels carrying oil to Nicaragua, Ortega said that they constitute an attack on Mexico because of its worthy attitude toward the Central American problem and because it is seeking an understanding in the region.

Meanwhile, THE NEW YORK TIMES has disclosed that the CIA is organizing the acts of sabotage against oil storage and industrial facilities in Nicaragua. The newspaper quotes statements by unidentified U.S. officials who have confirmed the CIA's involvement in the actions against Puerto Sandino and Corinto harbor, among others.

TANA MEETING AGAINST INTERVENTION BEGINS 17 OCT

PA172022 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Delegates from 30 Latin American and Caribbean countries will participate, along with special guests from other areas, in a solemn meeting for peace and against imperialist intervention in Central America, which will begin in Managua at noon on 17 October.

The meeting, which will last until 19 October, has been convoked by the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, [TANA] presided over by former Guatemalan Foreign Minister Guillermo Toriello. The tribunal includes other distinguished personalities from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Yesterday, the delegates visited the cities of Leon, Chinandega, and Corinto. In Corinto, they witnessed the results of the brutal imperialist attack perpetrated by the CIA.

Former Dominican President Juan Bosch, who spoke on behalf of the delegates who witnessed the sabotage at the port of Corinto, said that the Sandinist tribunal [as heard] has often stressed that Nicaragua is the barricade of the peoples of our America against U.S. imperialism.

Former CIA officer Phillip Agee, who has also been invited to the meeting, expressed his absolute conviction yesterday that the terrorist actions against the port of Corinto and Puerto Sandino were executed directly by the CIA.

CERNA SAYS U.S.-MADE BOAT USED IN CORINTO ATTACK

PA141247 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1919 GMT 13 Oct 83

[Text] Managua, 13 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- State Security Chief Lenin Cerna reported today that last Monday's attack on the oil depot in Corinto port was carried out by anti-Sandinists using a U.S.-made boat.

He said the boat had two high-power engines and was equipped with a 20-mm gun and .30-caliber and .50-caliber machineguns.

Cerna said: "Imperialism has used these aggressive tactics against other countries, and we know how they operate with those boats from the testimony of anti-Sandinist prisoners."

Thus far nobody has been captured in connection with the attack on Corinto, and the FSLN has charged through its leaders that the "CIA" is "using terrorism against the Nicaraguan people."

Marta Cranschaw, responsible for the FSLN in the western part of the country (Leon and Chinandega), said today that at the time of last Monday's attack (1730 GMT) a "counterrevolutionary" aircraft flew over Corinto and acted in coordination with the boat to divert the attention of the Sandinist soldiers toward the sky.

"The Sandinist militarymen fired on the aircraft, and the boat immediately staged the surprise attack on the fuel depot in Corinto, 170 km west of Managua," Cranschaw added.

The fire caused by the attack was controlled yesterday at 0900 after 1.6 million gallons of diesel fuel were lost.

Forty tons of medicine and 660 tons of food donated by the United Nations to the Sandinist Government were also burned. The 25,000 persons evacuated from the area began to return to their homes in the city of Corinto today.

Torres on Fuel Rationing

PA142113 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Several thousand peasants were awarded their agrarian reform land titles in San Carlos during the commemoration of the sixth anniversary of the attack on that port by FSLN forces. During the ceremony, 13,000 manzanas of land were distributed to 16 cooperatives by Brigade Commander Hugo Torres, chief of the political section of the Sandinist People's Army.

Commander Torres also symbolically presented weapons to the vanguard militias in La Azucena, Morrillo, and Laurel Galan. Afterward, he presented awards to six combatants of the border guard troops who have courageously participated in the struggle against our enemies.

Commander Hugo Torres analyzed the sabotage on the port of Corinto, and said the use of fuel will have to be rationed, but added that our revolution will struggle to the end, because it cannot be defeated.

ANTI-SANDINISTS ATTACK BRIDGE, CUSTOMS POST

PA141353 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported a few minutes ago that at approximately 1400, Somozist counterrevolutionaries fired five 60-mm mortar rounds at the Ocotal Bridge without causing any damage. After the attack, the criminal Somozists fled to Honduran territory, where their camps are located.

The Defense Ministry report indicated that after that action, another group of Somozist guardsmen based in Honduras fired two rockets at the Las Manos customs post from Honduran territory.

FDN-ARDE ATTACK PUERTO CABEZAS; REPELLED

PA141707 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1554 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Managua, 14 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- Commander William Ramirez, military chief of the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast, today reported that army troops have expelled approximately 1,500 anti-Sandinists who attempted to take control of Puerto Cabezas, the principal city on this country's eastern coast.

The military man responsible for the country's eastern coast said that the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) inflicted 140 dead and wounded on the invaders, while the forces loyal to the government suffered 13 dead.

In a statement for the official newspaper BARRICADA published in Managua, Commander Ramirez said that hundreds of "Somozist mercenaries" entered the country "from Honduras and Costa Rica."

Ramirez said this was a joint operation by the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) and members of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), the latter led by Eden Pastora Gomez (Commander Cero). The invading detachments attacked the "Benjamin Zeledon" port, which they occupied for an unspecified time.

There were two oil tanks at this Atlantic coast port, which the anti-Sandinists destroyed with explosives, paralyzing mining activities and the fishing industry, the military chief added. In Commander Ramirez' opinion, the defeat suffered by the anti-Sandinists -- who last month started an operation in an attempt to take over Puerto Cabezas -- "has been the harshest blow dealt to the counterrevolution" in the past months.

According to the military chief, after heavy fighting some 70 km from Puerto Cabezas, the "enemy" forces finally decided to retreat, "fleeing toward Honduras and Costa Rica."

Commander Ramirez reiterated the Sandinist government's policy of extending safe-conduct documents to those men who have collaborated with the "counterrevolution" but have decided to surrender to authorities.

Commander Hugo Torres, chief of the political section of the EPS, made a similar call this week to peasants who "after being kidnapped" collaborate with Eden Pastora's forces. "All peasants who have not stained themselves with blood and have not participated in criminal actions against the people can return to Nicaragua and go back to their farming jobs," Commander Torres told Pastora's followers.

Defense Ministry on Attacks

PA142005 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Military officers have reported that approximately 400 members of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, have dislodged an equal number of counterrevolutionaries from a temporary base in the northern part of Nicaragua. They added that the counterrevolutionaries do not wage frontal attacks on the Sandinist troops, and when confronted flee in desperation to the mountains, where they are pursued, dragging their dead along when time permits. The expulsion of these counterrevolutionaries took place in the area of Cerro Blanco, Matagalpa.

The EPS has inflicted 140 dead and wounded on the Somozist counterrevolutionaries, and at the same time has recovered an enormous quantity of equipment, arms, and ammunition in operation to oust the largest military contingent ever to infiltrate the northern zone of Nicaragua from Honduras.

The operation, called "Heroes of Limbaica," cleared the Prinzapolka River, the main supply route for EPS troops in Siuna, Bonanza, and Rosita, of counterrevolutionary activities, according to reports from the Defense Ministry.

Five 60-mm mortar rounds fired at the Ocotal bridge at 1800 yesterday by counterrevolutionaries hiding in Honduras did not cause any damage, the Defense Ministry reported last night. The report added that another group of Somozist guards stationed in Honduras launched two rockets at the Las Manos customs office in Nueva Segovia.

Two ambushes took place near the city of San Carlos, Rio San Juan Department, in an attempt to mar the commemoration of the sixth anniversary of the 1977 FMLN assault on the San Carlos headquarters. Captain Bosco Centeno, military chief of the zone and a survivor of the heroic campaign, made this report, adding that the first counterrevolutionary ambush took place on Tuesday at 0900, resulting in injuries to eight companeros, who were transferred to Managua for treatment. The second attack was directed against the border post of Las Nocas; our Armed Forces did not suffer any casualties in this attack.

Captain Centeno, chief of the San Carlos military detachment in Rio San Juan, reported that counterrevolutionaries led by the traitor murdered a 12-year-old boy while fleeing to Los Chiles in Costa Rica after an unsuccessful attack on a place called Las Trozas in Nicaragua. He said that the groups led by Pastora are using the same uniforms as the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, which operates from Honduras against Nicaragua and which is financed by the Reagan administration.

Clashes in Quilali, Wiwili, and Rio San Juan between 11 and 12 October resulted in the annihilation of 28 counterrevolutionaries and the heroic fall of 6 members of the EPS, the Defense Ministry reported last night through the Directorate of Public Relations.

FSLN ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON RESISTING AGGRESSION

PA150403 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0228 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Communique issued by the FSLN National Directorate on 14 October 1983 in Managua, read by Rene Nunez Tellez, FSLN National Directorate secretary general -- live]

[Text] From the FSLN National Direc rate to the heroic people of Sandino: Brothers, the Junta of the Government of Nation l Reconstruction today gave a full report on the situation our revolution is facing. The continuous increase in the diplomatic, economic, political, military, and terrorist aggressive policy of the current U.S. Government presents a new challenge to the Nicaraguan people to be the masters of their destiny.

The FSLN, benefitting from the outstanding performance of our people in the struggle and represented by the most outstanding fighters, workers, and popular leaders in the frontline of the new battles, will be with the people, facing the economic difficulties caused by the aggression and by reactions to the aggression.

On behalf of workers, peasants, youths, women, professionals, technicians, patriotic producers, defenders of production and reconstruction of our country, and with the powerful strength of the organized people, we will wage the fight that will assure our future progress.

The Sandinist people will stand by the revolutionary government in facing the boycott against our economic efforts, commercial sabotage, political blackmail, the aggressions by the counterrevolutionary task forces, the harassment by accomplice governemnts of the area, and the terrorist actions of the CIA commandoes.

We are going to win the dirty war that the present U.S. Government has declared on us. The effort of the people and the FSLN's members will be used in accomplishing the formation of reserve infantry battalions; in the territorial distribution of the Sandinist People's Militias to the last corner of the country; and in the promoting of the patriotic military service.

Our main organizational and political efforts should also be demonstrated in the development and organization of the civil defense; the establishment of firefighting industrial brigades; the reorientation of revolutionary vigilance to protect economic-strategic objectives; and the controlling of the actions of the enemies of the revolution.

Main production centers, power generating centers, fuel deposits, food storage centers, and medicine and raw material warehouses must be especially protected by the organized people.

All Nicaraguans must be ready to go to any of the combat fronts. We will organize dozens of production battalions to ensure that our economy does not collapse. By fighting with out hands if necessary, we will guarantee the harvest of coffee, cotton, sugarcane, and basic grains.

Along the same line, we must organize the saving of energy and fuel and regulate distribution of supplies so that fighters and workers directly involved in production do not lack basic supplies to maintain their fighting and working spirit.

Aggressions have increased, and our supplies, unemployment, and public services problems can also increase.

The peoples' organization and their belligerent and active participation will guarantee military victory and economic success, and that the reactionary sectors do not obstruct the people's magnificent efforts.

He who does not participate in this struggle should not be an obstacle either. All the Nicaraguan people's energy should be concentrated on defense and production, no matter the sacrifice, deprivation, or price.

Since it has not been able to subdue us with its political blackmail and counterrevolutionary military aggressions, the U.S. Government is trying, through the CIA, to destroy our productive capacity and paralyze our economy. It is trying to subdue us through hunger.

Sandino's battlefield is today more alive: It is a front of unity and high principles. We will rest and win with our heads held high and our backs straight.

The FSLN National Directorate calls on all members of the vanguard and the organized people, all Nicaraguans, to march together with the revolutionary government in the new battles. With Sandino, forefather of this anti-imperialist revolution, as one voice, Nicaragua reaffirms: I do not sell myself nor surrender; I want a free fatherland or death. All the people to arms.

FSLN National Directorate.

FDN CLAIMS DESTROYING PUERTO SANDINO OIL TERMINAL

PA150507 Paris AFP in Spanish 0438 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 14 Oct (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) today announced that its commandos destroyed the Puerto Sandino oil terminal, 70 km west of Managua, the only means of transporting crude to the refinery in that capital. An FDN communique indicates that the "amphibious operation" was staged by divers with "the participation" of area residents.

The installations had been the target of other attacks by the same commandos on 8 September, but had been repaired, which made it "necessary to stage the operation again," the FDN reported. The report added that this action "is within the framework of our strategic military plan to totally paralyze the Sandinist war machinery."

But reports of the sinking of a ship near Puerto Sandino, reported by the press, have not been confirmed by the FDN or by any other source. The FDN has threatened to blow up any ship which attempts to transport oil to Nicaragua. For this reason, ESSO, which was transporting most of the crude to that country, decided to cease its operations yesterday.

CONTACTS BETWEEN CUBA-PASTORA GROUP DETAILED

PM121541 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 7 Oct 83 pp 1, 5

[Jesus Ceberio dispatch: "Cuba Is Negotiating With Pastora, to Nicaraguan Junta's Deep Displeasure"]

[Text] Mexico City -- Over the last few months, senior Cuban officials have held at least four secret meetings with associates of Eden Pastora, the former Sandinist commander who, at the head of the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE), is leading an armed insurrection in southern Nicaragua to overthrow the Managua regime. Although the sources consulted assert that these are still exploratory talks with a view to a possible negotiation, this fact alone reveals a significant change on the part of Havana toward a man who has become "the traitor" in Nicaraguan official terminology.

According to all the evidence, the Sandinist Front leadership has been informed directly by Cuba of these contacts. Despite the initial reaction of profound displeasure, it is asserted that in August a semiofficial Managua envoy met in the Mexican capital with a representative of Pastora, Donald Castillo, who was also the leading figure in the initial contacts with the Cuban diplomats.

To complete the picture, it may be recalled that at that very time, an initial rapprochement between ARDE and senior State Department officials occurred. The U.S. Administration had hitherto shown itself extremely wary of Comandante Cero [Pastora], whom it regards as unmanageable, and had channeled all its support to the Democratic Nicaraguan Force (FDN), the anti-Sandinist guerrilla band fighting from the border with Honduras which has clear links with the overthrown Somozist regime.

The first meeting between Cuban and ARDE leaders took place in Washington in April, after Eden Pastora had announced the beginning of his armed struggle but before it materialized in May with attacks on border posts in southern Nicaragua. Comandante Cero's representative at this meeting was Donald Castillo.

Just a year earlier, Havana sent an envoy to convince Pastora's team that it was necessary to stop him "one way or another." At that time, the former deputy minister of defense had already secured his first and rather precarious arsenal by diverting a shipment of arms to his incipient organization sent from Libya to the Guatemalan guerrillas.

The Venezuelan capital was the scene of the second meeting with Pastora's men in July on the occasion of the many political meetings held in Caracas under the banner of the Bolivar birth bicentennial. Donald Castillo was again the interlocutor designated by ARDE.

A few weeks later (the sources disagree as to whether it was at the end of July or in August), a more formal meeting took place in Havana. Carlos Coronel -- former minister of fisheries in the first revolutionary government in Managua, representative at that time of the Sandinist Front in the Council of State, and currently the political adivser with the most influence over Eden Pastora -- traveled to the Cuban capital accompanied by Alvaro Jerez.

Daniel Pineiro, chief of the American Department at the Ministry of Foreign Relations [as published], and Ramiro Abreu, number three in his team, in charge of the Central America section, received them on behalf of the Cuban regime.

ARDE leaders (Carlos Coronel and Donald Castillo) apparently met for the fourth time with Cuban officials in Mexico in August, apparently coinciding with a stay by Manuel Pineiro in that country, although this point could not be confirmed. The round of contacts ended for the present with a meeting held in Panama at the end of September.

In diplomatic circles the belief is not too strong that these meetings will lead to tangible results in the immediate future, but the whole affair is assessed as proof of the pragmatism of Havana, which views the continuation of the Nicaraguan war as a likely danger to its own survival. A possible U.S. intervention would place it in a very awkward situation: it would either have to fulfill its commitments to Managua, with the threat of becoming involved in a direct military confrontation with the United States, or to face the discredit that standing aside would bring it.

Despite the rearming of Managua, the Cuban regime fears that it may not survive two military fronts, in the north and in the south, especially if the U.S. Administration decides to overcome its qualms about Pastora and opts for assisting him financially, as currently appears quite likely.

The unease existing in the Sandinist leadership at this rapprochement between Havana and Pastora has not prevented Managua from exploring this avenue on its own account. The meeting held in Mexico in August between Donald Castillo and Danilo Aguirre -- a man regarded as very close to [Nicaraguan Interior Minister] Borge -- falls within this intention.

Talks 'Blocked' for Present

PM121552 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 10 Oct 83 p 5

[Jesus Ceberio dispatch: "Talks Between Cuba and Eden Pastora's Group Were Informal and Exploratory"]

[Text] The talks held between Cuban Officials and leaders of ARDE (Revolutionary Democratic Alliance) -- an organization in insurrection against the Managua government under Eden Pastora's leadership -- were of an absolutely informal and exploratory nature, without either side going beyond the mere exposition of viewpoints on the current Nicaraguan conflict.

The Cubans told their interlocutors that they had chosen a mistaken way to resolve their differences with the Sandinist leaders, because the armed struggle is playing into the hands of the U.S. imperialist plan.

For their part, the ARDE representatives explained that insurrection was the only solution left to them by the Nicaraguan Government after it had systematically rejected every one of the proposals put forward to recover the original democratic blueprint.

This kind of viewpoint was expressed during the meetings held in Havana and Panama -- the only meetings at which fundamental issues were broached. The other meetings served only to break the ice and arrange future meetings, always on the Cubans' initiative.

It cannot be said that there has yet been a rapprochement of stances between the sides, or that even a possible process of negotiation has been outlined. Carlos Coronel, who represented ARDE at these meetings, stressed that it is on no account prepared to abandon the armed struggle at this stage in the conflict, although it remains open to negotiating a plan of national convergence which would accommodate all the Nicaraguan democratic sectors.

The Cuban officials made it clear that they have no power to negotiate since, because this is an internal, Nicaraguan affair, it is the Sandinist government's exclusive province. They added that they cannot and do not wish to press the nine commanders to begin a dialogue with Pastora.

Following the last meeting 2 weeks ago in Panama, the channels of communication appear to have been blocked for the present, no further contact having been arranged. However, the ARDE leadership has reiterated that it will talk with the Cubans again if they so wish, just as its has done and will continue to do with the Socialist International and with Washington, which, which one of its leaders will visit next week.

The most furious reaction to these talks has been that of the FDN (Democratic Nicaraguan Force), Nicaragua's other belligerent group, which with U.S. support is using Honduran territory as a logistical base and whose leaders are closely linked to the Somozist dictatorship.

ARDE admits that the publicity given to this matter could hamper the negotiations which have been begun for possible unity among all the forces fighting the Managua regime, but it will not sever contact on that account with a government such as that of Cuba, "which plays an important role in this crisis."

The nine Sandinist commanders undoubtedly have the last word, and their refusal to talk with Pastora is still absolute and unanimous.

During his European tour, Nicaraguan Minister of the Interior Tomas Borge put it clearly: There will be no negotiations with those who have betrayed the revolution.

This does not mean that there could not have been personal contacts between the two sides, helped by the fact that members of the same family are fighting in the different trenches.

Further on Contacts

PA161250 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 10 Oct 83 p 10A

[Report by Eduardo Amador and Edgar Fonseca]

[Text] Rebel Commander Eden Pastora Gomez disclosed that Cost Rican Communist leader Manuel More Valverde arranged his talks with the Havana regime 4 months ago in an effort to find a solution to the Nicaraguan conflict. However, Mora has denied Pastora's statement, declaring that he has played no role as mediator between Pastora and Havana.

He did admit, however, that he met with Carlos Coronel Kautz, Pastora's main deputy, some time ago, but said that he never discussed any arrangements with Cuba.

According to Pastora, Coronel traveled to Havana in August and held "unofficial informal talks" with Cuban officials. Among other officials, he met with Manuel Pineiro, chief of the American Department of the Communist Party of Cuba's Central Committee, and with a man whose last name is Abreu. More recently, there was a meeting in Panama between emissaries of Fidel Castro's regime and Pastora's people.

According to Commander "Cero," the Cubans wanted to find out if the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) would eventually be willing to hold formal talks in Madrid on a date not yet specified.

"I am not sure if these meetings will take place now, after all the commotion that has been stirred up. AS a fundamental condition for any negotiations, ARDE's directorate demands the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Nicaragua. Other conditions could be discussed later," Pastora said in an interview with LA NACION in Rio San Juan Department

Mora Comments

When questioned about this matter, Mora Valverde confirmed his meetings with Coronel Kautz, stating that they discussed the reasons for Pastora's separation from the FSLN and the Nicaraguan Government. He added: During these talks, we analyzed the possibilities of a reconciliation between Pastora and the FSLN on the basis of possible revisions by both sides. "It was a meeting between two friends who knew that the Nicaraguan revolutionary process is being threatened by intrigue and by very powerful forces," Mora added.

Mora also said that because of the "willingness" he saw in Coronael, he mentioned the possibility of a meeting between Pastora and himself. However, no agreement concerning this possibility was reached.

Mora recalled that during the meeting, he told Coronel that Pastora's objectives were unrealistic to a certain extent, and that the wisest thing was to begin frank and direct talks with the FSLN leaders. "At no time did we discuss the possibility of, much less the need for, Cuba's participation on these talks. Subsequently, I have not had further contacts with Coronel or with any other friend of Pastora. Therefore, I did not participate in the meetings or negotiations that have supposedly taken place," Mora stated, by way of clarification.

Pastora's Version

Nevertheless, Commander Pastora categorically asserted that ARDE, through the Popular Vanguard Party, PVP, was asked to explain its objectives in the conflict to the Cuban Government. When asked to specify which individual from the PVP had approached him, he replied: "It was the old man Manuel Mora." "We were asked to state our viewpoints. We did so, first before Pineiro and Abreu, and then in Panama." Pastora added that the other members of ARDE's directorate -- Alfonso Robelo Callejas, Brooklyn Rivera, and Jose Davila, a member of the Christian Democratic Party, who recently joined the directorate -- knew about and approved of the talks. After the meeting in Panama, the possibility of holding formal talks between ARDE and the Cuban Government in Madrid, but at "lower" levels, was proposed. There would be no FSLN delegates at those talks.

According to Pastora, there is a new channel of communication with the Sandinist Directorate. "There has been an approach. They have made contact with us through independent delegates, and we are willing to engage in dialogue," Pastora said. "I do not think any serious, sensible, or mature person would see anything wrong in these talks. Fidel Castro and Daniel Oduber also met recently," he pointed out. As an example, he noted that during the Indochina conflict in the 1960's, talks between the Viet-Cong and the United States were held in Paris.

According to Pastora, his actions cannot be considered contradictory if we consider the recent meeting between the Salvadoran guerrillas and U.S. "roving" Ambassador Richard Stone to seek a solution to the Salvadoran conflict. "We seek peace, not further destruction. We are doing this from a revolutionary, dignified, patriotic, and nonintervention ist position," he explained.

Pastora was asked if it was not utopian to think about a democratic rescue of the Nicaraguan revolution, in view of Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega's statement that totalitarianism has been the pillar of the revolutionary process they have led since 1979. "In politics, as Jose Marti used to say, reality is not always visible. Theory is one thing, but practice is another. In reality, with a war going on in the north, south, Atlantic, Pacific, and the central region, positions can be changed," he said in conclusion.

'OUR AMERICA' ON NICARAGUA SITUATION, CIA ACTIONS

PA162040 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Oct 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Nicaragua has held the CIA and the Reagan government responsible for the 10 October criminal attack on Port Corinto, the most important seaport in that Central American country. Commander Lenin Cerna, chief of the state security department, has called it a naval attack carried out with a U.S.-made speedboat. The terrorist action jeopardized the port's 25,000 residents, most of whom had to be evacuated because of the fire, which consumed 1.6 million gallons of diesel. The fire was brought under control by Nicaraguan firemen with the cooperation of Mexican, Cuban, and Colombian specialists, who prevented the fire from extending to another 32 fuel tanks, which would have resulted in a catastrophe.

After touring the damaged installations, Commander Henry Ruiz, member of the FSLN National Directorate, said: This is an act of aggression by the United States, not another attack by counterrevolutionaries. The North Americans have been increasing [1-second break in transmission] counterrevolutionaries, comprised of Somozist mercenaries, starting with the air attack on Managua's airport in early September. This attack was carried out with planes supplied by the espionage and subversion agency.

For the attack on Corinto, they used a boat equipped with two powerful motors, a 20-mm cannon, and two machineguns -- one .30-cal and one .50-cal. There is substantial evidence concerning direct U.S. aid to the mercenary bands. Recently, the Honduran Christian Human Rights Commission denounced the fact that there are 130 CIA agents in Honduras to direct former Somozist guards in counterrevolutionary actions against Nicaragua.

The attacks on Nicaragua have increased alarmingly recently. Nicaraguan troops have repelled some 1,500 counterrevolutionaries who tried to seize Puerto Cabezas on the Atlantic. The Sandinist People's Army [EPS] inflicted 140 casualties on the enemy, who were dispersed throughout the region while their commanders returned to their sanctuaries in Honduras and Costa Rica. While fleeing, the former Somozist guards murdered Miskito townspeople and set fire to 125,000 gallons of fuel used for mining activities in the area. There have been attacks from the Honduran border area on the Ocotal Bridge and the Las Manos border post. Counterrevolutionary groups have attacked the La Moca border post from Costa Rican territory and entered Nicaragua to attack Nicaraguan patrols. In Port Sandino, terrorist groups directed by the United States again blew up the oil pipelines in that seaport.

Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the National Reconstruction Junta, has denounced the fact that the CIA is implementing a plan to cut Nicaragua's oil supplies. This has also been made evident by the decision of Esso -- a U.S. transnational -- not to lease out its ships for transporting oil from Mexico to Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan Government has adopted measures to face the increasing aggression and has formally asked several countries to supply the military means necessary to defend Nicaragua's coasts and airspace.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR TANA HEARING IN MANAGUA

PA160355 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] The Cuban delegation that will participate in the solemn hearing for peace and against imperialist intervention in Managua will leave for Nicaragua this weekend. The hearing, which will be in session from 17 through 19 October, is sponsored by the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America [TANA].

The Cuban delegation will be headed by Severo Aguirre, president of the Cuban Movement for the Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples. Other members include movie star Santiago Alvarez, cartoonist Rene de la Nuez, and Francisco de Varona, the president of the National Union of Cuban Lawyers and of the Cuban chapter of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal.

FMLN REVITALIZATION CAMPAIGN RESULTS NOTED

PA150334 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 14 Oct 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Some 3 months ago the FMLN forces started a general retreat because it was considered that during nearly a full year of combat the immediate goals of extending their zones of control and capturing large quantities of armament and ammunition had been attained.

In order to achieve new objectives, the FMLN decided it was necessary to reorganize its forces. For this reason, the FMLN determined to organize additional militia units, distribute the armaments taken from the enemy, and keep some of these armaments in reserve arsenals.

In addition, the general command of this guerrilla organization decided to distribute its forces in accordance with the new operational areas that had been adopted in view of the new strategy demanded by the armed struggle at the time.

As a result of this process, the FMLN multiplied its forces, its firepower, and the quality of its combatants. An eloquent example of this increase in the quantity and quality of the rebel contingents is the rebel eastern front, which created a new group of battalions during this period, attached to the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade.

In order to carry out these plans, the guerrilla units not only suspended most of their offensive actions, but avoided combat with the Army's forces and presented only a minimum of resistance. This plan was carried out in order to maintain the main effort of training new forces and drafting new plans for the rebel struggle.

The FMLN's reduced activity during these months and its scarce resistance to the army's military operations were erroneously interpreted by the regime's high command and the U.S. advisers, who believed that they were seeing resumed initiative on the part of their men in uniform.

Officers of all ranks, and even Defense Minister Gen Eugenio Vides Casanova, as well as U.S. Under Secretary of Defense Fred Ikle let their imaginations run wild and started daydreaming about the possibility of extricating themselves from their difficult situation.

To the Armed Forces' campaign of strolls along the war fronts, the Salvadoran dictatorship added a political plan that included the so-called strategic villages, the promulgation of the so-called amnesty law, and the promotion of elections.

The regime also announced its willingness to hold a dialogue with the rebel forces in an effort to find peace. Not only this, but Colonel Jaime Flores from the Armed Forces staff asserted that they had destroyed 60 percent of the rebel forces, showing the press 10 rifles as proof.

While 4,000 Army members were anxiously looking for guerrillas in San Vicente, a rebel unit blew up the strategic Quebrada Seca Bridge on the Pan-American Highway, practically under the noses of the Army. In Chalatenango the Army suffered numerous casualties and lost hundreds of rifles. The Army could not settle in any of Morazan's villages during that time, nor can it settle now.

During this period the FMLN demonstrated that, without using all its forces, it was able to hamper, delay, and prevent the Army's progress. But this stage of guerrilla recovery has passed, and now the guerrillas have started a vast operation called "Independence, Liberty, and Democracy for El Salvador" which, during only the first 20 days inflicted more than 500 casualties on the Army.

The current strategy of the regime, whose Army is led by U.S. advisers, is but a desperate attempt to contain the rebel offensive. Thus, those who dream of a possible victory by the dictatorship and the United States in the war against the Salvadoran people are very wrong.

'OUR AMERICA' COMMENTS ON URUGUAY PROTESTS

PA170416 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Oct 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The latest antidictatorial protest in Uruguay confirms that the people of the heroic fatherland of Artigas have not allowed themselves to be crushed under the fascist boot. The presence of 100,000 people in the streets of Montevideo on 25 September, protesting against the military regime in the first political demonstration in 10 years, was a clear warning to the soldiers who usurped the Uruguayan Government through the 1973 fascist coup d'etat.

The largest demonstrations against the regime -- a march through downtown Montevideo and a huge concert of banging pots and pans, together with blackouts -- are unquestionably the major political events of recent times in that South American country. Those two expressions of protest showed the degree of dissatisfaction which Uruguayans feel toward the military government and their recognition of the regime's inability to stop the people's offensive.

The march, which covered a little more than 3 km, brought together thousands of students and workers under antidictatorial slogans. The military dictatorship will end, the demonstrators chanted, along with other slogans demanding the release of political prisoners, freedom, higher wages, work, and an amnesty. The call for an amnesty was voiced by the Workers Interunion Plenum, an illegal organization that joined the protests. In addition to the size of this demonstration, its most important feature is that it is the first political demonstration authorized by the government since 1973. The first mass protest against the regime actually occurred on 1 May, International Labor Day. The 1 May demonstration and march, in which 80,000 to 100,000 people participated, set off a wave of protests that has continued since mid-September.

The 25 September march was a result of the climate of popular agitation that has also led to limited strikes by the Workers Interunion Plenum to demand more jobs and higher wages.

The Uruguayan generals cannot avoid drawing some conclusions from the spectacle they witnessed on Sunday, 25 September. They saw a country completely blacked out for 15 minutes and heard the banging of pots. In a country of 3 million which has been without political and democratic activities for 10 years, those protest demonstrations constitute a virtual plebiscite against the dictatorship's political and economic policy.

Since November 1982, Uruguayans have suffered from a bout of spiraling inflation that is unprecedented in their neoliberal economy. This trend, caused primarily by a 140 percent currency devaluation, has led to a constant loss in purchasing power and 16 percent unemployment -- all of which has intensified social tension in recent months.

But in addition to the socioeconomic crisis, the general climate of discontent has been worsened by delays in renewing the dialogue between the military and the legal political opposition, the purpose of which is to discuss conditions for an alleged return to institutional normality. The interruption of the dialogue in July unleashed an intense debate within the Armed Forces. A large group of generals expressed their opposition to the idea of extending the military's term in power, as has been suggested by General Gregorio Alvarez, head of the dictatorship. The pressure of public opinion and the domestic situation may well force the military to resume the dialogue with the three permitted political parties in the hope of gaining time and shoring up a regime that is progressively deteriorating in the face of the Uruguayan people's growing rebellion.

FLAVIO BRAVO DELEGATION ARRIVES MOSCOW 16 OCT

FL171339 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Moscow -- Flavio Bravo Pardo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, arrived yesterday in the Soviet capital. He is heading a delegation of members of the National Assembly that will also visit Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea.

The delegation, which also includes National Assembly members Eddy Fernandez Boada and Maria Luisa Martinez, was met at Moscow airport by officials of the USSR's Supreme Soviet and the Foreign Ministry.

To Visit Vietnam

FL161612 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1227 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Havana -- Flavio Bravo Pardo, member of the party Central Committee and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has departed for Vietnam leading a delegation from our country legislative body.

VEIGA, CTC DELEGATION TO CSSR, SYRIA, SFRY

FL171916 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Roberto Veiga, alternate Politburo member and secretary general of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] has left for Czechoslovakia. He is heading a CTC delegation. During his stay in the sister country, Veiga, in his role as vice president of the World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU], will participate in the joint meeting that has been called for by WFTU secretariats and by the Permanent Congress for Latin American Workers Trade Union Unity, CPUSTAL. After this meeting, the Cuban delegation will travel to Syria to participate in the 30th meeting of the WFTU's Bureau, which will take place between 20 and 24 October. Finally, the delegation will accept an invitation from the president of the Confederation of Yugoslav Trade Unions.

RODRIGUEZ ARRIVES EAST BERLIN FOR CEMA MEETING

FL171938 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers of Cuba, today arrived in Berlin to participate in the 37th Session of the CEMA. The Cuban leader was met at the airport by Gerhard Schuerer, candidate member of the Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

The CEMA meetings will begin tomorrow in the GDR capital. Delegations from all member countries will participate, together with guests and observers.

LITERATURE FORUM CONDEMNS RADIO MARTI, U.S.

FL161520 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1304 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate member of the party Politburo and member of the Secretariat, delivered the speech closing the Cuban Literature Forum, organized by UNEAC [National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists] and held at the Palace of Conventions in this capital.

The closing session unanimously approved the event's final declaration and a statement of solidarity with our country which condemns the decision of the U.S. Congress to establish an anti-Cuban radio station. The closing session was presided over by Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos and national poet Nicolas Guillen.

The forum's final declaration expressed its condemnation of the threatening and agressive actions of reactionary forces throughout the world, led by Yankee imperialism.

A message condemning the recent sabotage perpetrated against the Nicaraguan port of Corinto was approved by the forum's participants. The delegates signing the document warned that Yankee imperialists' aims of exterminating the people of Sandino could ignite Central America and the rest of the world. It also pointed out that Reagan's policies are decalrations of war on culture, liberty and justice.

Participants in the forum unanimously approved a statement which expressed their complete repudiation of Radio Marti, the anti-Cuban radio station organized by the U.S. Congress. The use of the name of Jose Marti is an insult to the Cuban and Caribbean peoples, stated the declaration read by Uruguayan poet and essayist (Saul Ibargoyen).

(Ricardo Gomez) addressed the Cuban Literature Forum on behalf of the FMLN and FDR and called for the international public's solidarity with the struggle of his people. The Salvadoran revolutionary presented an analysis of the current status of the fighting. He said more than one third of El Salvador is in rebel hands. Referring to the participation of the revolutionaries in talks with representatives of the regime, (Gomez) stressed that the guerrillas take part in these efforts because they are seeking a prompt settlement of the conflict which would be favorable to his people. The Salvadoran revolutionary concluded by calling on all intellectuals and writers to become literary guerrillas to fight Yankee imperialist intervention in our America.

GRENADA

GEN AUSTIN'S PARTY STATEMENT ON BISHOP'S OUSTER

FL172040 Bridgetown CANA in English 2020 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Oct 17, CANA -- Following is the text of a statement read today by Army Commander General Hudson Austin on the state-controlled Radio Free Grenada (RFG), as the island's ruling leftwing New Jewel Movement (NJM) remained in the grips of a thorny political crisis over leadership for the fourth day running:

"Dear comrades, the New Jewel Movement wishes to speak to you...about the unfortunate situation which presently exists in our country. During the past four-and-a-half years of the revolution, our party and people together have faced several difficult moments. There have been the events of October and November 1979, and June 19 and November 18, 1980. We have also faced many problems and difficulties both in bringing about the revolution adn also afterwards in overcoming the divisions between ourselves and building unity in our country in moving towards solving unemployment, in getting rid of corruption, in developing our education and health services, in building the economy of our country and overcoming the propaganda directed at sabotaging the Grenada revolution.

Yet, in our opinion, the present situation is the most difficult that our party and our people have yet had to face. Therefore our party has taken the decision to give a full account to the people of Grenada on the events which have led up to this crisis, in order that our people should understand fully the present political situation which faces our party and revolution. Sisters and brothers, as you know, it has always been the policy of our people to be fully truthful to the people in all matters, including the policy of our party, the state of our economy and the strengths and weaknesses of our work in the country as a whole. Yet, there is one matter which we have never revealed to our people and that is the serious internal problems that have taken place within our party, especially during the past year.

We have never spoken about these problems publicly because we thought it was vital to maintain an appearance of full unity of our party at all costs, especially concerning the attacks which the Grenada revolution has received from outside. However, the truth is that during the past year, our party has faced a serious problem on the constantly growing desire of Comrade Maurice Bishop to exercise full and exclusive power and authority.

One of the main principles of our party is that of collective leadership. That is, that all important decisions must be made by the leadership of our party together by our Central Committee and not by any one member of the leadership. Yet, during the past four and a half years, at many important moments in our country's history, and on many important issues, Comrade Bishop has deeply resented this collective leadership and has taken the position that no action can be taken to which he is opposed. At the same time, he has become increasingly hostile to criticisms and increasingly suspicious that other members of the leadership of the party may be trying to seize power from him.

Matters first came to a head one year ago when this suspicion focussed on Comrade Bernard Coard, then the deputy leader of our party. On that occasion, Comrade Bernard Coard said, that in order to avoid division in our party, he should remove himself from the leadership of our party and that this would also make it clear to Comrade Maurice Bishop that he had no wish to replace him as leader.

The Central Committee of the party, mistakenly as it turned out, agreed with the decision and permitted Comrade Coard to resign from the Political Bureau and Central Committee of the party and to concentrate on his work as minister of finance, trade and planning.

Over the past year, however, the situation has not bettered, it has worsened. When members of the Political Bureau and Central Committee of the party disagreed with Comrade Maurice's opinions, he has become angry and increasingly hostile. His attention has been increasingly focussed on the question of power, and who he thinks wants to take it away from him. He has imagined conspiracies within the Central Committee aimed at removing him as leader of the country.

Sisters and brothers, at the same time as we experienced the problem of increasing concentration of power in one man, the work of the party and revolution began to decline because the truth is that Comrade Maurice's strength had always been in his direct link with the masses and his weakness has been that he has never been able to adequately organise, supervise and guide the work of the party.

During the past several months, the party has been receiving increasing complaints from the masses concerning supporters of the revolution being denied work by elements of the civil service hostile to the revolution. Complaints of strong and hardworking supporters being the first to be laid off the job often after long years of service, while inefficient and hostile elements were deliberately kept on. Complaints have also been received about a lack of concern and care of agricultural machinery and equipment received as gifts from friendly countries. As well as about the worsening state of our roads, the constant electricity blackouts, and the abuse of workers by some managers and supervisors. The masses of our country have also been seriously concerned about the disorganised state of the CPEL [expansion unknown], militia, house...repairs programme, mass organisations and about the increasing boldness of country revolutionary elements in some of our workplaces and communities.

All the concerns brought by the people to the attention of the party have been discussed by the party leadership in our Central Committee. Yet, less and less action has been taken to solve these problems. Of course, there has been some objective difficulty. For instance, lack of finance to undertake some projects and the old generators in the power station.

Let us make it clear that we are not trying to blame Comrade Bishop for all the problems. However, the major problem has been lack of strong leadership from the top and the unwillingness of Comrade Bishop to take firm decisions to solve the problems, while at the same time, trying to concentrate power in his own hands. He alone simply could not solve all the problems. The party therefore became paralysed, almost unable to take firm action on any matter. By last month, the situation within the party had reached a crisis point. The Central Committee decided to hold an emergency meeting and at that meeting it was decided to restore what has always been existing in the past, but this time to establish it formally: the joint leadership of our party, with Comrade Maurice Bishop doing what he has always done best -- directing work among the masses, and Comrade Bernard Coard, doing what he was always done best, namely guiding and organising the political work of the party.

The Central Committee believes that by dividing up the work in this way, based on the strengths of both comrades, the overall work of the party revolution must improve.

The NJM wishes to stress that the establishment of the joint leadership of the party is an internal question and has nothing whatsoever to do with who is prime minister and leader of the state. There was never any suggestion or intention to remove Comrade Bishop from his post as prime minister of Grenada and leader of the revolution and this was made very clear to him.

Joint leadership of the party was aimed at giving both comrades the necessary authority with their respective areas of work in order to push forward the political work of the party. The problem, however, sisters and brothers, is that Comrade Bishop has allowed his power and authority to go to his head and he refused to accept the decision of the Central Committe of the party. The matter therefore had to be taken to a meeting of all members of the party. At that 15-hour meeting, the party unanimously voted in favour of joint leadership of the party, including Comrade Bishop himself. The next day, Comrade Bishop left for Hungary. However, on his return home, the party discovered that he had changed his mind and that he was again refusing to accept the party's decision on joint leadership. Moreover, the party learned that he intended to try and overturn the party's decision by taking an internal party matter onto the streets.

Members of the Central Committee became deeply concerned about the possibility of Comrade Bishop causing a public scandal and planned to raise the matter at a meeting scheduled for last Wednesday, 12th October. However, that very same day, the rumour hit the streets of Grenada that Comrade Bernard Coard and his wife were planning to assassinate Comrade Bishop. At lunch time, the Central Committe learnt that one of Comrade Bishop's security officers had given a sworn statement to the security forces stating that Comrade Bishop had given himself and his chief personal security officer, Cletus St Paul, a list of names that morning. Comrade Bishop had instructed them to contact all the names on the list and tell them that Comrade Bernard Coard and his wife were planning to assassinate him. Last Thursday night, the matter was taken to a full meeting of all members of the party. All the evidence against Comrade Bishop which the party so far possesses, in terms of his involvement with the rumour, was laid before the members. Comrade Bishop spoke for 45 minutes in his own defence.

After hearing both Comrade Bishop and all the evidence, including evidence provided by members of his personal secuirty unit themselves, the overwhelming sentiment of the hundreds of party members present at the meeting was that for having disgraced the party and the revolution, Comrade Bishop should be removed from the Central Committee of the party and expelled from the party itself. However, the Central Committee is to make the final decision after the security forces have completed their investigation of the matter. It should be stressed that Comrade Bishop had stated that he may wish to speak again later in the meeting. After two personal security comrades gave a blow-by-blow account of his part in directing the rumour, however, Comrade Bishop was asked by members of the Central Committee if he wished to reply, and he said no. He did not even maintain his innocence.

Sisters and brothers, over the past four-and-a-half years, the Central Committee of the party has struggled very hard to win Comrade Bishop to a position of collective leadership. They have tried to keep the problem away from the masses in order to maintain the unity of the party and the unity and prestige of the Grenada revolution. The Central Committee took a position of maintaining the unity of the party at all costs and as it turned out, its position has become incorrect, because it has allowed the problem to get worse.

However, finally, the situation had to be dealt with within the party because not to have dealt with it would have been to release one-man rule in Grenada once more, and this we could not do. If we did not act now to stop the steady growth of one-man rule in our party and country, would it have been easier or harder to stop it one year from now, two years from now, or five years from now?

One of the main struggles of our party over the years : against one-man rule. How can the NJM now simply decide not to deal with the question because of our attachment to Comrade Bishop or because we want to take the easy way out of the problem. It is the firm position of our party that the interests of our country and revolution must be put above the interest of any one man.

Sister and brothers, during the past few days, a lot of our people have said to us: understand what the party says. If you are a member of a party or organization, then you have to abide by its rules and decisions. We say that Comrade Bishop was wrong. We agree that the party had to discipline him. But that is a matter for inside the party, why take it onto the streets?

Comrades, this is a very good question. That is the exact position of the Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement. It is our position that we should have resolved this issue, clearly because this matter did not affect who is prime minister or the running of the government or the running of the ministry. The political and economic policies of the party would not have been affected in any way. There has been no dispute in the party over these issues and there still isn't. The fact is that it is Comrade Bishop who chose to take this matter out of the party on to the streets, weaving an ugly loom in order to whip up the masses and claim on the love of the masses for him which he did not develop as a result of his own but as a result of the work of the entire party over the past 10-and-a-half years.

Comrade Bsihop was hoping to use the masses' love for him and violate the principled stand by the Central Committee of the party to use the masses to change the party and to change change its position on an internal party matter. The rumour which Comrade Bishop sent out onto the streets tried to lay out that there was some kind of power struggle going on within the party. Comrades, if that is so, how come two-thirds of the Central Committee and all except a handful of our entire party membership fully support the decision of the Central Committee of our party on joint leadership of our party?

Even with all the love and admiration which exists within our party for Comrade Maurice, the entire membership, except for a very tiny minority, fully supported the position of the Central Committee. The truth, comrades, is that there has never been in our party, any struggle for power. The struggle of Comrade Bishop has been the struggle of one man to exercise unlimited power and that our party cannot and will not permit. The people of Grenada must understand that it has taken enormous moral courage on the part of our party to take a step that we know would be unpopular with many sections of our people. But our party stands for principle and we believe that principle for one, must be principle for all. No one loves Comrade Bishop more than the members of our own party, but the decision on this matter must be based on principle alone. In other words, right is right and wrong is wrong, no matter who does it, and no more one man rule can be permitted in our country.

The party understands that our people are concerned about were Comrade Bishop is, whether or not he is safe.

The NJM wishes to assure the people that Comrade Bishop is at home and is quite safe. Our party also understands our people's concern over who is in charge of the country at this moment, especially in view of a nasty lie put out by the CANA news agency to the effect that there has been a military takeover in Grenada.

The New Jewel Movement wishes to assure our people that the Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement is in full control of the running of the country at this moment, just as it has been during the past four and a half years of the revolution. The NJM, the same party which has led the struggles of our peoples over the last 10-and-a-half years, the party which has made the revolution, would continue to push the revolution forward to complete our international airport, and to solve the problems still facing our people.

We call on our peoples to have co. age at this difficult moment in our history, to continue to defend the revolution and the gains of the revolution and to maintain unity in order to ensure that imperialism does not take advantage of this moment of difficulty. Our people must also be on guard against any attempt to create panic and discontent. In keeping with the overwhelming desire [of] our people, the NJM is still making every effort to settle this problem within the party. We call for the support and solidarity of our people at this time.

Comrades, as a people, we must stand firm at this moment and it is the conviction of our party that if we, as a people, stand firm and remain united and settle this matter on the basis of equity, we would find that the revolution is unbreakable.

Long live our strong and courageous people. Long live the struggle of our working people to build our country. Long live the New Jewel Movement. Long live the revolution. Forward ever, backward never." [End of text]

Compromise Solution Sought

FL180035 Bridgetown CANA in English 0030 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Excerpts] St Georges, Grenada, Oct 17, CANA -- Intense behind the scenes efforts continued inside Grenada's ruling leftist New Jewel Movement (NJM) today to find a compromise solution to a four-day-old political crisis that has seen Prime Minister Maurice Bishop placed under house arrest. The state-controlled Radio Free Grenada said today that there had been regular meetings of the NJM's Central Committee which was making "every effort" to resolve the issue over leadership of the 10-and-a-half year-old political party.

In the meantime, the radio said, the security forces had announced that the results of current investigations into Bishop's involvement in spreading a rumour that he was the victim of an internal assassination plot would be made public. As Grenada's 110,000 population digested the statement, the radio tonight said the NJM realised people were deeply concerned about the situation but were remaining calm.

Investigation of Plot Rumors

FL172352 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] A senior member of the security forces confirmed [words indistinct] that the security forces are continuing to investigate the origin of a rumor which said that [words indistinct] Wednesday. The rumor alleged that there was a plot by Former Minister of Planning, Finance, and Trade Comrade Bernard Coard and Phyllis Coard to assassinate Comrade Maurice Bishop. The senior member of the secuity forces said the results of the investigation would be made public as soon as they are completed.

'General Strike' Fails

PA172248 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2153 GMT 17 Oct 83

[By Yussuff Haniff]

[Excerpts] Bridgetown, 17 Oct (EFE) -- The general strike called today in Grenada in support of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has failed. Most stores were open, and all government offices and services were functioning.

Grenadian sources told EFE here that commercial activities were being conducted normally in the capital city, St Georges. There were no street demonstrations of the type whch occurred over the weekend. Similarly, all government offices and public services were operating as usual. It has not been determined if a majority of public employees went to work.

The situation in St Georges has been described a "calm, but tense." When Bishop's house arrest and the arrest of three of his ministers became known, it appeared that his only chance to emerge victorious from the power struggle was through popular support in the form of a general strike. This tactic has now failed. Caribbean political observers believe that, due to the unsuccessful efforts by Bishop's followers, the party's directorate will announce his dismissal and the appointment of Coard as the new prime minister.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

SOLDIERS SET TO REPEL GRENADIAN REFUGEES

FL172140 Bridgetown CANA in English 2100 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Oct 17, CANA -- The Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force has deployed scores of soldiers along both north and south coasts to prevent illegal landings by refugees from neighbouring Grenada, press reports said today.

The reports, quoting offical sources, said an alert was implemented Friday. Grenada is gripped in a crisis over leadership of the Peoples Revolutionary Govenrment (PRG) with Prime Minister Maurice Bishop being held under house arrest.

Press reports here said scores of troops have been seen in north and south coast villages. Official sources said Trinidad and Tobago was monitoring the situation in Grenada from its high commission in Barbados and Ministry of External Affairs here.

"Obviously, we know something is going on there but we are not in possession of the facts and until the situation has resolved itself we cannot make any judgement," official sources said. Grenada is located 100 miles north of Trinidad and Tobago.

PRESIDENT BURNHAM RESHUFFLES CABINET 17 OCT

FL171733 Bridgetown CANA in English 1715 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 17 (CANA) -- President Forbes Burnham today announced a re-shuffle of his cabinet, appointing a new vice president and bringing in two new ministers.

A statement from the presidential office said attorney general and Minister of Justice Dr Mohamed Shahabuddeen has been appointed vice president, replacing Steve Naraine who will become Guayana's new High Commissioner to India.

The new ministers in the cabinet will be Carl Greenidge, who will be responsible for Planning and Finance, and Seeram Prashad, who takes the portfolio of Trnasport within the vice presidency for Social Infrastructure.

In other changes, Vice President Hamilton Green will now serve as vice president with responsibility for Social Infrastructure, a position previously held by Vice President Steve Naraine, and Vice President Desmond Hoyte will assume responsibility for Agriculture as vice president for production. Hoyte was previously vice president for Economic Planning and Finance.

President Burnham will assume direct responsibility for Scientific Research and Development, a key area in the national self-reliance thrust. In addition, Harold Singh, who served as minister of state within the Ministry of Finance, will become Minister of State for Regional Development within the Ministry of National Mobilisation, and Basdeo Bhaggan, parliamentary secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will switch to the office of the Prime Minister in the same capacity of parliamentary secretary.

An official announcement said Burnham paid tribute to Naraine who he said served over the years as a "dedicated and dependable" member of his team.

Last April Burnham made a few changes in his cabinet but did not reshuffle his ministers.

OFFICIAL ON DISPUTES WITH VENEZUELA, SURINAME

FL141600 Georgetown Guyana Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Guyana is not dragging its feet on the border issue with Venezuela, but is pursuing a course which could lead to a peaceful solution. This was stated by the principal foreign affairs officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, [first name indistinct] (Miles), when she addressed the meeting with the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs [NCLDO].

She said the thought must not be entertained that Guyana is not prepared to do honor (?in relation) to the region. This can be done, Comrade (Miles) said, and called on the NCLDO members, not only to act as pioneers but to develop the region. She said: They are the people who should do the homework for development. Comrade (Miles) noted that the struggle is a long outstanding one in this country's foreign policy.

Mention was also made of the dispute with Suriname over the New River triangle. After explaining reasons why the matter is not (?given an) expeditious handling, Comrade (Miles) assured NCLDO members that there is constant dialogue with Suriname over the issue. She also made it clear that the dispute has not affected relations with neighboring Suriname.